



Campgrounds

What Operators Should Know about Vermont Business Taxes

Learn more about Campgrounds, by [visiting our industry guidance page \(tax.vermont.gov/business\)](https://tax.vermont.gov/business).

For additional information, we suggest closely reading [Technical Bulletin TB-50 \(tax.vermont.gov\)](https://tax.vermont.gov) which relates directly to campgrounds.



REGISTER FOR A BUSINESS TAX ACCOUNT AND LICENSE

Businesses and nonprofits [must register for a Vermont Business Tax Account and license \(tax.vermont.gov\)](https://tax.vermont.gov) before collecting Vermont tax. Registration is free.

Campgrounds often provide sleeping accommodations, meals, and prepared food. Campground operators should know and understand the law and regulations relating to the Vermont Meals and Rooms Tax.

Vermont Rooms Tax

Rentals That Are Taxable

Rentals of sleeping accommodations are subject to rooms tax. Cabins, tents, and other structures used for sleeping are “sleeping accommodations.” See Reg. §1.9202(3)-2.

Rentals That Are NOT Taxable

Bare land for customer-provided tents or recreational vehicles, as well as tent platforms, are not “sleeping accommodations.” The campground may supply electrical, water, or sewerage hook-up for those who rent space. If these are included in the charge for the plot of land, they are not taxable.

Rentals for Less Than 30 Days

A campground that rents sleeping accommodations to a customer for 30 consecutive days or less must charge rooms tax on the charge for the accommodation. The customer is considered a temporary resident. If the customer is still renting after 30 consecutive days, the campground should no longer charge rooms tax as the customer is then considered a permanent resident. The tax is still due on the first 30 days of rental. See Reg. §1.9202(7)-1.

Leases for at Least 30 Days

If the campground leases a sleeping accommodation to a tenant that covers at least 30 consecutive days, the tenant is considered a permanent resident. As long as the lease is in place prior to occupancy, the charge is not subject to rooms tax. However, if the lease is broken, and the tenant does not occupy the accommodation for at least 30 consecutive days the tenant is not considered a permanent resident, and the campground must charge rooms tax. See Reg. §1.9202(7)-(1)(B).

Vermont Meals Tax

A campground must collect meals tax if it sells food or beverages in a “restaurant” (such as a dining room, diner, café, cafeteria, lunch counter, food truck, or snack bar). Most food and beverages sold by a restaurant

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Campgrounds may sell alcoholic beverages in a camp store or restaurant. They are subject to either the Vermont Alcoholic Beverage Tax or Vermont Sales and Use Tax.

Alcoholic beverages are subject to the Vermont Meals and Rooms Tax at a 10% tax rate when served for immediate consumption.

Alcoholic beverages not served for immediate consumption (sold by grocery stores or convenience stores) are subject to the 6% Vermont Sales and Use Tax.

DON'T FORGET

- Vending machine operators must also collect and remit meals tax for food and beverages
- Campgrounds that sell propane and/or propane in freestanding containers should apply Vermont Sales and Use Tax.
- Admission charges for a "Place of Amusement" are subject to sales tax.
- Businesses are responsible for collecting and remitting local option tax to the Vermont Department of Taxes.

are subject to meals tax (see below for the few exceptions). See Meals Tax for Businesses FS-1020 and Reg. § 1.9202(15) to learn more about what qualifies as a restaurant.

These items are always subject to meals tax, even when sold apart from a restaurant:

- Sandwiches of any kind, except frozen
- Food or beverage furnished from a salad bar
- Heated food or beverage. This includes single servings of tea, where the customer must combine the tea bag and hot water. See 32 V.S.A. § 9202(13).
- Single serving ice creams

These items are not subject to meals tax, even when sold by a restaurant:

- Self-serve, bulk, non-prepackaged grocery items such as fruit, vegetables, candy, flour, nuts, coffee beans
- Grocery-type items furnished for take-out
- Whole pies or cakes and loaves of bread
- Delicatessen and non-prepackaged candy sales by weight or measure (except party platters)
- Pint or larger closed containers of ice cream or frozen confection
- Eight-ounce or larger containers of salad dressing or sauces

Vermont Sales and Use Tax

Vermont Sales and Use Tax applies to sales and rentals of tangible personal property. There are various situations in which a campground must collect sales tax. Some common transactions subject to sales tax include:

- The campground charges an additional fee to rent tangible personal property. This includes sports and recreational equipment, such as canoes, bicycles, and life jackets.
- The campground charges an additional fee for places of amusement. See below for more details.

Campground operators should know and understand Vermont laws and regulations relating to sales and use tax by reviewing the following:

- Vermont Sales Tax Statute [32 V.S.A. Chapter 233 \(legislature.vermont.gov\)](https://legislature.vermont.gov)
- Vermont Regulations Reg. §§1.9701-1.9781
- Technical Bulletin TB-50 Campgrounds

Other Taxable Transactions

For general guidelines on what is taxable and exempt, please see What is Taxable and Exempt (tax.vermont.gov/exempt-items).

Exempt

- Food, Food Products, and Beverages
- Please note: Soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, and ice are subject to sales tax.
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Clothing

- Newspapers and Magazines
- Coin-Operated Washing Facilities

Taxable

- Grooming and Hygiene Products
- Laundry Service and Linens
- Clothing Accessories or Equipment

Disclaimer: The information provided here is intended to be an overview only. Vermont tax statutes, regulations, Vermont Department of Taxes rulings, or court decisions supersede information presented here.

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