Guidelines on Sales Tax: What is Taxable and Exempt

All tangible personal property is taxable as specified in Vermont statute 32 V.S.A. § 9701 and Vermont Sales and Use Tax Regulations § 1.9741(2), except for items specifically exempted by statute and regulation. The information provided on this fact sheet is meant as a general guideline only. It is not an exhaustive list. It provides examples of property, either taxable or exempt, which are included in the broader definitions given in statute and regulation.

For specific questions about particular items, please contact the Vermont Department of Taxes for guidance at tax.business@vermont.gov or call (802) 828-2551. Visit our website (tax.vermont.gov) for more information, guides, and fact sheets.

EXEMPT Food, Food Products, and Beverages

Food, food products, and beverages are exempt from Vermont Sales and Use Tax under Vermont law 32 V.S.A. § 9741(13) with the exception of soft drinks.

Soft drinks are subject to Vermont tax under 32 V.S.A. § 9701(31) and (54). For further guidance on beverages that qualify as soft drinks subject to tax, see Vermont Sales and Use Tax on Soft Drinks (tax.vermont.gov).

EXEMPT Clothing

- Aprons, household & shop
- Athletic supporters
- Baby receiving blankets
- Bathing suits & caps
- Beach capes & coats
- Belts & suspenders
- Boots
- Coats & jackets
- Costumes
- Diapers, child & adult, including disposable diapers
- Earmuffs
- Footlets
- Formal wear
- Garters & garter belts
- Girdles
- Gloves & mittens for general use
- Hats & caps
- Hosiery
- Insoles for shoes
- Lab coats
- Neckties
- Overshoes
- Pantyhose
- Rainwear
- Rubber pants
- Sandals
- Scarves
- Shoes & shoelaces
- Slippers
- Sneakers
- Socks & stocking
- Steel-toed shoes
- Underwear
- Uniforms, athletic & nonathletic
- Wedding apparel
### EXEMPT Over the Counter Drugs

- Aspirin, Ibuprofen & similar
- pain-relief medications & analgesics
- Analgesic salves & liniments
- Antacids
- Acne medications
- Antiseptics & soaps used for the treatment of infection & skin diseases
- Medicated burn remedies
- Cough & cold medications, such as throat lozenges, cough drops syrups
- Decongestants & antihistamines
- Analgesic toothache preparations & dental repair kits
- Eye preparations for the healing or treatment of the eyes, such as contact lens solutions, eye drops, ointments & wipes
- Laxatives, cathartics & suppositories

### EXEMPT Medical Equipment and Supplies

#### Durable Medical Equipment
- Bath & shower chairs
- Commode chairs
- Dialysis treatment equipment
- Drug infusion devices
- Feeding pumps
- Hospital beds
- MRIs
- Oxygen equipment
- Resuscitator
- X-ray machine

#### Medical supplies
- Bandages & surgical dressings
- Hypodermic syringes & needles
- Disposable heating pads
- Colostomy devices

#### Mobility Enhancing Equipment
- Wheelchairs

#### Prosthetic devices
- Artificial limbs
- Artificial eyes
- Prescription eyeglasses & contact lenses
- Hearing aids

- Stairlifts
- Canes
- Crutches
- Motorized carts
- Walkers
- Dentures & dental appliances
- Electronic voice producing machines
- Cranial hair prosthesis
- Cervical collars
- Heart valves
- Pacemakers
- Orthotic devices
- Trusses
- Fabric & elastic supports
- Braces

### EXEMPT Menstrual Care Products

- Menstrual caps & pads
- Menstrual sponges
- Panty liners
- Period panties
- Sanitary napkins
- Tampons
### TAXABLE Clothing Accessories or Equipment
- Belt buckles sold separately
- Briefcases
- Cosmetics
- Costume masks sold separately
- Hair notions, including, but not limited to, barrettes, hair bows & hair nets
- Handbags
- Handkerchiefs
- Jewelry
- Patches & emblems sold separately
- Sewing equipment & supplies including, but not limited to, knitting needles, patterns, pins, scissors, sewing machines, sewing needles, tape measure & thimbles
- Sewing materials that become part of “clothing,” including, but not limited to, buttons, fabric, lace, thread, yarn & zippers
- Sunglasses, nonprescription
- Umbrellas
- Wallets
- Watches
- Wigs & hairpieces

### TAXABLE Protective Equipment
- Breathing masks
- Clean room apparel & equipment
- Ear & hearing protectors
- Face shields
- Hardhats
- Helmets
- Paint or dust respirators
- Protective gloves
- Safety belts
- Safety glasses & goggles
- Tool belts
- Welders’ gloves & masks

### TAXABLE Sports or Recreational Equipment
- Ballet & tap shoes
- Cleated or spiked athletic shoes
- Gloves, including, but not limited to, baseball, bowling, boxing, hockey & golf
- Goggles
- Hand & elbow guards
- Life preservers & vests
- Mouth guards
- Roller & ice skates
- Shin guards
- Shoulder pads
- Ski boots
- Waders
- Wetsuits & fins

### TAXABLE Supplies
- Body massage appliances
- Therapeutic foot baths
- Room humidifiers & air conditioners
- Household baby & bathroom scales
- Medic alert bracelets
- Hot tubs

### TAXABLE Grooming and Hygiene Products
- Antiperspirants
- Cleansing wipes
- Douches
- Mouthwash
- Shampoo
- Soaps & cleaning solutions
- Suntan lotions & sunscreens
- Toothpaste