

Kitsap County Treasurer

Frequently Asked Questions

How are property taxes calculated?

State law requires that county assessors appraise all property at 100 percent of its true and fair market value in money, according to the highest and best use of the property. Fair market value or true value is the amount that a willing and unobligated buyer is willing to pay a willing and unobligated seller. The county assessor values real property using one or more of three professional appraisal methods.

For more information on how your residential property is assessed and valued contact the Kitsap County Assessor's Office at (360) 337-7160.

What law governs the collection of property taxes in Washington State?

The method of giving notice for payment of taxes due, notices of delinquency and collection procedures, distribution of taxes to various taxing districts, waiving of interest and penalties and accounting for money collected are explained in statutes within the Revised Code of Washington ([RCW 84.56](#))

What interest and penalty are charged on delinquent payments?

The interest and penalty rates are set by law. ([RCW 84.56.020](#)) Payments without the appropriate interest and penalty cannot be posted to the account and will be returned with an opportunity to pay without further cost by a certain date.

Can I pay multiple tax accounts with one check?

Yes, please include all payment stubs or account numbers with your check. You may also pay one account with multiple checks, as long as they are mailed in together.

Can waive the interest and penalty on my delinquent taxes?

There is no "good cause" statute that allows waiving of interest and penalties except in the circumstance of the county making an error when the tax account originated (the source document for proof is the real estate tax affidavit), or in case of hardship caused by death of the taxpayer's spouse or taxpayer's parent-owned property, if the Treasurer is notified within sixty (60) days of the tax due date (copy of death certificate required). ([RCW 84.56.025](#))

Does my payment for taxes have to be in the Treasurer's office by the due date?

No, it must be postmarked by the due dates of April 30th and October 31st.

Can current year's taxes be paid without paying delinquent taxes?

Yes, current year may be paid per ([RCW 84.56.060](#)). However, be aware that property is subject to foreclosure once a tax year is three years late.

Can my taxes be withdrawn automatically from my bank account?

Kitsap County has a couple of programs available to automatically debit your bank account for payment of property taxes on an ongoing basis. More information is available on our [Payment Options](#) page.

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Can anyone see my tax account records?

Yes. All real property taxes are public record.

Does the county mail a copy of my tax statement to my mortgage company?

No. It is the responsibility of the taxpayer to monitor their relationship with their mortgage company. Read your escrow account statements carefully to verify that taxes are paid current, especially when you have recently purchased your property or refinanced your home. Occasionally, tax payments collected on refinancing are not forwarded to the Treasurer until April or October. There can be errors or delays in payments for failure to notify the Treasurer of changes in your address or account status.

Does the county mail me a form showing how much I paid for property taxes last year (to be used federal tax filing)?

No. You can use the tax statement that was sent to you in February or pull up your statement and receipt history via our [Parcel Search](#).

Does filing a Satisfaction of Mortgage with the [County Auditor](#) change the name and address on my tax statement?

No. The Treasurer must be notified. (Please submit an [Address Change](#) online.)

What is the Real Estate Excise Tax Rate?

The Excise Tax Rate is 1.78% of the gross sale price + a \$5.00 technology fee if paid within 30 days of the date on the transferring document.

What is personal property tax?

If you own a business, you are subject to a personal property tax. Taxable personal property includes items such as: furniture and fixtures, office equipment, machinery, tools, supplies, etc. The Treasurer may distraint (seize) and sell personal property if taxes are delinquent. Advance taxes are collected if the property sells or transfers before the tax is due. The tax is due even if the business closes or the property sells or transfers. Contact the Treasurer's Office before buying or selling any personal property to protect your property against a lien. If you need more information, call (360) 337-4936.

How do I sign up for a reminder to pay second half taxes in October?

If you wish to receive a postcard reminder, please call (360) 337-4934 or e-mail the Treasurer's Office to treasurer@co.kitsap.wa.us.

What is the Noxious Weed Assessment for?

Noxious weeds are non-native plants that have been introduced accidentally or as ornamentals in peoples' gardens. Some are poisonous to humans and livestock and most grow rapidly and are extremely difficult to control. A state law passed in 1969 mandates all counties to have a program to combat noxious weeds. Kitsap County

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wants to avoid a lawsuit from neighboring counties such as happened in King County in 1995. A \$2 per year assessment on Property Tax will fund the Kitsap County Noxious Weed Control Program to provide education, prevention, technical assistance and control of noxious weeds through voluntary compliance. Preventing the spread of weeds is more effective and less costly than eradication. More information can be found in the [Noxious Weed FAQ](#) flyer.

What is the Surface and Stormwater Management Program?

The Surface and Stormwater Management Program (SSWM) is a multi-agency program designed to address non-point pollution and flood control. The program was developed in response to the Federal Clean Water Act, the Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan, and locally developed Watershed Action Plans. The core purpose of the program is to address non-point pollution, which has been identified as the primary source of pollution in Kitsap County's streams, lakes and marine waters. Non-point pollution is pollution that is carried from roofs, yards, streets and other land surfaces by stormwater runoff. For more information can be found on the [Public Works Stormwater website](#).

Treasurer Questions

All questions about tax payments, due dates, refunds, delinquent taxes, receipt of statements, duplicate statements, issues with mortgage companies or tax services, excise taxes, foreclosure or personal property distraint, mobile home moving permits and tax statement address changes should be directed to the Treasurer's Office at (360) 337-7135.

Assessor Questions

All questions about the assessed value of property, appeals for lowering assessed values, levy rates and tax limitation, tax relief programs for senior citizens and the disabled; or open space programs should be directed to the Assessor's Office at (360) 337-7160.