

CITY OF STERLING

2023

SALES & USE TAX RETURNS



IMPORTANT SALES TAX INFORMATION

KEEP THIS BOOKLET

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PLEASE FILE IN A SAFE PLACE

City Of Sterling

Sales and Use Tax Returns

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

FORMS FOR REPORTING: This booklet contains the forms you will need to report and send payments of City of Sterling sales and use tax for the calendar year. Sales / use tax returns printed with your business and billing names, address, and account number, plus the period covered and due date for each return will be supplied unless you request that none be sent. (However, many businesses prefer to use their own return forms, or those supplied by tax preparation services, and this practice is encouraged.) Please be careful to use the return with dates that corresponds to the period for which you are filing. Blank sales / use tax returns are available from the Sterling Finance Department, or on the City's website at [www.sterlingcolo.com/government/finance/printable sales tax return form](http://www.sterlingcolo.com/government/finance/printable_sales_tax_return_form).

KEEPING RECORDS: The law requires you to keep records of both purchases and sales, including sales invoices and purchase orders, for a minimum of three years. Be sure to retain copies of your sales / use tax returns. Records must be open for inspection by authorized auditors or other official representatives of the City of Sterling.

All the money paid by the purchaser to you (the seller) as city sales / use taxes is, by law, public money which is the property of the City of Sterling. Failure to file a return and pay the taxes collected is a violation of the law, and will result in an assessment from the City for an estimated amount of tax due. Therefore, it is important to file a return and pay all taxes collected on a timely basis, and to maintain sufficient records to prove the amount of taxes collected and paid. Sales / use tax returns must be filed even when a business has no sales activity and/or tax liability.

The burden of proof for exempt sales rests with the seller. A form entitled Claim For Exemption From Sterling Tax is included in this booklet. It is to be used by vendors to document deductions for exempt sales.

CHANGES OR CLOSURES: The Sterling city code requires that you must notify the city if one or more of the following occurs:

- (1) Change of business location.
- (2) Change of mailing address.
- (3) Change of business or trade name.
- (4) Sale of the business.
- (5) Merger of the business with another business.
- (6) Closure / termination of operation of the business.

In order to inform the city of changes, please place an "X" on the appropriate line in the boxes near the bottom of the sales tax return. If necessary, you may explain details in the space provided, or on an attached sheet of paper. You may use the Account Change or Closure Form, included in this booklet, to notify the city of any change in the business (or d/b/a) name, business or mailing address, or contact person, or to notify the city that you are no longer in business here, and need to close your sales / use tax account. If the business ownership changes, the new owner must apply for his/her own sales / use tax account. Please remember that a vendor selling or closing the business must still file a final sales / use tax return on or before the 20th day of the month following the close or sale of the business.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- A return **MUST** be filed even when no tax is due.
- Please read the **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS** (next page) thoroughly before completing your return form. Because of its simplicity, the short form has no instruction page.

- Be careful to use the return that corresponds to the period for which you are filing.
- You are welcome to send your completed and signed returns in the envelopes provided.
- Enclose your check, payable to *City of Sterling*.
- **Please do not staple your check to the return.**
- All returns filed after the due date must be accompanied by the appropriate penalty and interest (see lines 10A and 10B of the regular return).
- Rounding amounts on returns to the nearest dollar is an acceptable means of completing your return. To use this method, round all amounts from 0 to 49 cents down to zero cents, and all amounts from 50 to 99 cents up to the next dollar.

Returns must be filed with the City of Sterling at the address below, or in person at the Finance Department at City Hall, on or before the 20th day of the month following the close of the tax period. (If the 20th falls on a holiday or a weekend, your due date is the next available working day.) **Mailed returns must be postmarked by the due date, or late penalties and interest are due.**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

City of Sterling
Finance Department
P. O. Box 4000
Sterling, CO 80751

Telephone: (970) 522-9700
FAX: 970-521-0632

E-mail: salestax@sterlingcolo.com

The following pages are specific instructions for the standard Sales / Use Tax returns, a blank optional (simplified) return, your personalized standard returns, and other forms.

SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS FOR SALES / USE TAX RETURN

- LINE 1 GROSS SALES AND SERVICES:** Report all receipts for the period covered. This should include all sales, both retail and wholesale; services rendered; rent receipts; and all amounts both taxable and non-taxable, which you received doing business.
- LINE 2 BAD DEBTS COLLECTED:** Report the bad debts collected which were deducted on a previous return on Line 4D – “Bad Debts Charged Off.”
- LINE 3 TOTAL LINES 1 + 2:** Add Lines 1 and 2, and record the sum on this line.
- LINE 4 DEDUCTIONS:** The following items are exempt from taxation:
- A** Deduct all SERVICES that are non-taxable.
 - B** Deduct sales made to other STERLING-LICENSED RETAILERS who purchase such merchandise for the purpose of resale to their consumers.
 - C** Deduct all sales delivered to the purchaser outside the city limits of Sterling only if BOTH the following conditions exist: (a) the sale is to a purchaser who is a nonresident of Sterling AND (b) delivery is made by common carrier, by conveyance by the seller, or by mail to the purchaser at an address OUTSIDE the City of Sterling.
 - D** Deduct all sales WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY YOUR TAXABLE SALES, and which you now deem “uncollectible” or “bad” and have written off as such.
 - E** Deduct the value of property traded-in, only if it will be resold in the usual course of your business.
 - F** Deduct all your sales of gasoline and cigarettes.
 - G** Deduct all qualifying sales you made to tax exempt organizations.
 - H** Deduct all your sales that were returned by the purchaser and were reported as your taxable sales on a previous return.
 - I** Deduct all your qualifying sales of prescription drugs and prosthetic devices.
 - J – L** Deduct all other exemptions not covered on Lines 4A through 4I. OTHER DEDUCTIONS MUST BE IDENTIFIED in the space provided. Restaurant utility credits are presently not permitted in Colorado. If they are resumed, they must be submitted on Form DR 1465, filled out in their entirety and submitted with the appropriate return.
- TOTAL DEDUCTIONS:** Total all deductions claimed in Lines 4A through 4L.
- LINE 5 NET TAXABLE SALES & SERVICES:** Subtract “Total Deductions” from Line 4.
- LINE 6 AMOUNT OF CITY TAX:** Report the amount of sales tax calculated. The sales tax is calculated by multiplying Line 5 – Net Taxable Sales & Services – by the sales tax rate, which is currently 3% (multiply by 0.03).
- LINE 7 EXCESS TAX COLLECTED:** Report the amount of tax collected in excess of the 3% calculated rate of tax on Line 6.
- LINE 8 TOTAL SALES TAX:** Add Lines 6 and 7.

- LINE 9 USE TAX:** Use tax is assessed on items that are used or consumed in the operation of the business, and on which no city sales tax has been paid and no tax exemption exists. List all purchases on a separate sheet of paper as follows: Date of purchase, name and address of vendor, type of product purchased, and purchase price. Enter the total purchase price of products in the blank labeled “Amount Subject to Use Tax” on Line 9. Then calculate the use tax by multiplying the total purchase price of products by the effective use tax rate, which is currently 3% (multiply by 0.03).
- LINE 10 LATE RETURN PENALTY AND INTEREST:** If your tax return was mailed or dropped off after the due date, you are required to pay a penalty and interest. The penalty is 10% of Line 8 + Line 9. The interest is 1% per month (or part of a month) of Line 8 + Line 9. Enter the total penalty and interest, and the sum of the two, in the appropriate spaces under Line 10.
- LINE 11 TOTAL TAX, PENALTY & INTEREST:** Add Lines 8, 9 and 10.
- LINE 12 UNDERPAYMENT ON PRIOR RETURN:** An error notice, delinquent letter, or Notice of Assessment will be sent to any taxpayer that is delinquent, or whose taxes are underpaid. Attach a copy of the notice to your return, and show underpayments due to the City of Sterling on this line.
- LINE 13 OVERPAYMENT ON PRIOR RETURN:** An error notice or notice of overpayment will be sent to any taxpayer whose taxes are overpaid. Attach a copy of the notice to your return, and show the overpayment due you.
- LINE 14 TOTAL DUE AND PAYABLE:** Add Lines 11 and 12 and subtract Line 13. Make your check or money order payable to the “City of Sterling.”

ACCOUNT CHANGE OR CLOSURE FORM

Use this form to notify the City of Sterling of any change in the trade (or d/b/a) name, business or mailing address, or contact person, or to notify the city that you wish to close your sales tax account. If you are closing your account, please indicate the appropriate reason.

TRADE NAME OR ADDRESS CHANGE

CURRENT NAME AND ADDRESS	NEW BUSINESS NAME AND ADDRESS
Name	Name
Address	Address
City/State	City/State
	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Address <input type="checkbox"/> Mailing Address <input type="checkbox"/> Both

CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP/BUSINESS CLOSURE

LAST DAY OF BUSINESS:	NEW OWNERSHIP INFORMATION
Reason:	Name
<input type="checkbox"/> Ownership has Changed	Address
<input type="checkbox"/> Business has been permanently discontinued	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business has been sold	City/State

CHANGE OF CONTACT PERSON

CURRENT CONTACT PERSON	NEW CONTACT PERSON	
Name	Name	
Phone #	Phone #	
Fax #	Fax #	
Authorized Signature	Telephone Number	Account Number

If your retail business location changes during a filing period you must file a separate sales tax return for the taxes collected at each location.