

Seller's Permit by State — Reference & Prep Worksheet

Fillable State Reference + Application Prep — ClearLegalTips.com (2026)

A seller's permit is your state's authorization to collect sales tax from customers and remit it to the state revenue department. In most states it is free and issued within minutes to a few business days. Use the reference table below to confirm cost and where to register, then complete the prep worksheet before you apply.

1. State-by-State Seller's Permit Reference

Verified from official state pages where noted. Registration is usually free; a minority of states charge modest one-time fees, and some may request a security deposit or bond based on your expected sales.

State	Cost	Where to Register & Notes
California	\$0	Register online with the CDTFA. "There is no charge for a seller's permit," though a security deposit can be requested based on expected sales.
Texas	\$0	Register with the Comptroller's online application. No fee, though a bond may be required in some cases.
Most other states	Free to small one-time fees	Typically \$0, with a minority charging modest registration fees. Register through your state Department of Revenue; its page states the current number.
Alaska (AK)	No state sales tax	No state permit required. Alaska localities can impose their own local sales tax and registration.
Delaware (DE)	No state sales tax	No state seller's permit required.
Montana (MT)	No state sales tax	No state seller's permit required.
New Hampshire (NH)	No state sales tax	No state seller's permit required.
Oregon (OR)	No state sales tax	No state seller's permit required.

Key rule: you register where you have nexus — your home state first, states holding your inventory, and states where your direct sales cross economic-nexus thresholds (commonly around \$100,000 in annual sales into a state; several states have dropped their transaction-count tests). Marketplace-only sales (Amazon, Etsy, eBay, Walmart) are handled by facilitator collection in every sales-tax state, though several states still require registered or inventory-holding sellers to hold a permit and file returns.

2. Your Nexus States — Fill In

List each state where you have physical or economic nexus, then look up its cost and portal and record them here.

Your Nexus State	Nexus Type (physical / economic)	Cost	State DOR Portal / Account #

3. Do You Need One? (Nexus Check)

- ☐ You sell taxable goods (and, in some states, taxable services) at retail
- ☐ You have nexus in the state — physical (home state, office, inventory/warehouse, employees, in-person selling) or economic (remote sales above the state's threshold, commonly ~\$100,000/year)
- ☐ You sell into the state through your own checkout (Shopify, website) — your permit, your collection, your returns

4. Business Details

Legal business name / DBA: _____

EIN (or SSN for sole proprietors): _____

Entity type (sole proprietor / LLC / corporation): _____

Business address: _____

Business start date: _____

5. Sales Info

Products/services you sell (with NAICS code if known): _____

Estimated monthly taxable sales: _____

States where you have nexus: _____

Assigned filing frequency (monthly / quarterly / annual): _____

6. Don't Confuse These Three

Seller's permit (sales tax permit/license)

Authorizes you to collect and remit sales tax. Issued by the state revenue department.

Business license

General local permission to operate in a city or county. Issued by local government; fees vary by industry and city. Separate from the seller's permit — you may need both.

Resale certificate

Lets you buy inventory tax-free for resale. You issue it to suppliers using your permit number. Misusing it for personal or non-resale purchases is what auditors look for.

7. Apply

Find your state Department of Revenue (the IRS directory of state tax agencies links every one), create an account on its business portal, complete the sales-tax registration, and save the permit and account number. Most states issue the permit within days, many instantly.

State revenue website / account login: _____

Permit / account number once issued: _____

Notes: _____

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

Use the reference table to confirm your cost and registration portal, then complete this worksheet before you file. Register in your home state before your first taxable sale, and add states only when nexus actually reaches you. After registering, you owe a return on your assigned schedule — including zero-sales periods; the missed zero return is the most common new-seller penalty. This template is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. Laws vary by state and change over time. Have an attorney review your specific situation before relying on it. ClearLegalTips.com is not a law firm.