

# Information Bulletin

PST- 2

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## **THE PROVINCIAL SALES TAX ACT**

### **GROCERY, CONVENIENCE AND DRUG STORES**

This bulletin has been prepared to help you apply and collect the Provincial Sales Tax (PST). It is a general guide and not a substitute for the legislation.

*Changes to this bulletin are indicated by a (I) in the margins.*

The contents of this bulletin are presented under the following sections:

- A. [Taxable and Exempt Categories](#)
- B. [Exempt Sales](#)
- C. [Vapour Products Tax and Retail Sale of Vapour Products](#)
- D. [Liquor Consumption Tax](#)
- E. [Gift Baskets and Other Packaged Goods](#)
- F. [Sales of Used Business Assets](#)
- G. [Goods and Services for Your Own Use](#)
- H. [Tax Tips Line](#)
- I. [Saskatchewan eTax Services \(SETS\)](#)
- [Appendix – Taxable and Exempt Food and Beverages](#)

#### **A. TAXABLE AND EXEMPT CATEGORIES**

General categories of tax-exempt items include basic groceries, prescription drugs and medicines (that can only be obtained by prescription from a duly qualified medical practitioner), books and magazines, feminine hygiene products, and certain medical equipment and orthopedic appliances.

General categories of taxable items include carbonated beverages, fruit-flavoured beverages, snack foods, sweetened baked goods (single-servings in quantities of less than six), dietary supplements and vitamins.

PST also applies to prepared food and beverages ready for consumption. Please refer to Information Bulletin [PST-33, Restaurants, Caterers and Other Businesses Selling Prepared Food and Beverages](#) for details.

Groceries, food and beverage products are subject to PST on the same basis as the usual application of GST, therefore when tax applies for GST purposes, PST also applies. Where a business obtains a tax status ruling from the GST/HST Rulings Unit on a particular product, that ruling will also determine the PST application on that product.

The GST small supplier criteria do not apply for PST on sales of taxable food and beverage products. Vendors of taxable food and beverage products, including small suppliers, must be licensed to collect and remit PST. Please refer to Information Bulletin [PST-5, Registration and Reporting Requirements](#) for further details.

GST and Vapour Products Tax (VPT) are excluded in calculating the amount of PST payable.

In order to provide you with a convenient reference, we have prepared the following list of examples of some of the more common exempt and taxable items sold in grocery and drug stores.

**Note:** Exempt items in the alphabetical listing below that are identified with a “\*” are exempt when sold to individuals. Sales of these items to hospitals, nursing homes and institutions providing medical or palliative care are subject to PST.

Refer to the [Appendix](#) for additional information on taxable and exempt food and beverages.

EXEMPT A	TAXABLE A
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-burn scar supports</li> <li>• Artificial sweeteners</li> <li>• Atlases</li> <li>• Audio books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absorbent cotton</li> <li>• Adhesives</li> <li>• Acne preparations</li> <li>• Adults’ clothing and footwear</li> <li>• Aerochambers</li> <li>• Aftershave lotions</li> <li>• Air deodorizers and air fresheners</li> <li>• Albums</li> <li>• Alcohol – rubbing</li> <li>• Alcohol swabs</li> <li>• Aluminum foil wrap</li> <li>• Ammonia</li> <li>• Antacids</li> <li>• Antifreeze</li> <li>• Antiphlogistine rub</li> <li>• Antiseptics</li> <li>• Appetite suppressants</li> <li>• Aprons</li> <li>• Aspirin and similar non-prescription analgesics</li> <li>• Artificial flowers, trees</li> <li>• Athletic supports including sport braces and compression sleeves (ankle, arch, back, knee, thigh and wrist)</li> </ul>
B	B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baby food</li> <li>• Baby diapers – cloth/disposable</li> <li>• Baby pants – plastic/rubber</li> <li>• *Blood pressure kits</li> <li>• Books – Paperback, hard cover</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baby bibs</li> <li>• Baby blankets</li> <li>• Baby clothing</li> <li>• Bunting bags</li> <li>• Baby shampoos</li> </ul>

EXEMPT B (continued)	TAXABLE B (continued)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Braces and supports (orthopedic appliances) – ankle, arch, back, elbow, knee, sacroiliac, shoulder, spinal, wrist (<b>but not</b> athletic braces and supports)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baby oils</li> <li>• Baby pins</li> <li>• Baby powders and toiletries</li> <li>• Ballpoint pens</li> <li>• Bandages</li> <li>• Barbecue charcoal, starter fuel</li> <li>• Bath salts, oils, toiletries</li> <li>• Bathing suits, caps</li> <li>• Batteries (hearing aid batteries and wheelchair batteries are exempt)</li> <li>• Beach bags, duffle bags, etc.</li> <li>• Beauty aids</li> <li>• Beverages –dispensed and single-serve, carbonated and fruit-flavoured</li> <li>• Bird gravel</li> <li>• Birdseed</li> <li>• Birth control devices</li> <li>• Breast pads and pumps</li> <li>• Breath mints</li> <li>• Breath sprays</li> <li>• Bubble bath</li> <li>• Buckles</li> <li>• Bulbs – garden</li> <li>• Burn remedies</li> <li>• Buttons and other clothing fasteners</li> </ul>
C	C
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canes</li> <li>• *Cholesterol testers and monitors</li> <li>• Coffee, tea, cocoa and substitutes (taxable if prepared for consumption)</li> <li>• *Colostomy units</li> <li>• Colour flame logs</li> <li>• Colouring books, paste books</li> <li>• Comic books</li> <li>• Cookbooks</li> <li>• Crutches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calendars</li> <li>• Camera supplies</li> <li>• Candy</li> <li>• Computer software and video games</li> <li>• Condoms</li> <li>• Candy bars</li> <li>• Carbonated beverages</li> <li>• Cards – greeting</li> <li>• Cassettes and compact discs (CDs)</li> <li>• Cat food</li> <li>• Chest rubs</li> <li>• Children’s clothing and footwear</li> <li>• Christmas trees – artificial and natural</li> <li>• Cigarettes, cigars, loose tobacco and chewing tobacco</li> <li>• Cigarette holders</li> <li>• Cigarette makers</li> <li>• Cigarette tubes</li> <li>• Cleaning products</li> <li>• Clocks</li> <li>• Coffee filters</li> </ul>

EXEMPT C (continued)	TAXABLE C (continued)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colognes</li> <li>• Combs</li> <li>• Confections, including candies, nuts and soft drinks</li> <li>• Contact lens solutions</li> <li>• Contraceptive devices</li> <li>• Contraceptive gel</li> <li>• Cosmetics and beauty aids</li> <li>• Cotton swabs, balls</li> <li>• Cough syrups</li> <li>• Crayons</li> <li>• Creams and lotions (face, hand, shaving, skin) – including medicated</li> </ul>
D	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Diabetic blood and urine testing strips and tablets</li> <li>• *Diabetic needles and syringes</li> <li>• Diaper inserts and liners</li> <li>• Diapers – cloth/disposable</li> <li>• Dictionaries</li> <li>• Drugs and medicines – that can only be obtained by prescription from a duly qualified medical practitioner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dental floss</li> <li>• Denture adhesives</li> <li>• Denture cleaners</li> <li>• Deodorants</li> <li>• Deodorizers</li> <li>• Depilatories</li> <li>• Dermatologic skin preparations</li> <li>• Detergents</li> <li>• Diaper pins</li> <li>• Diaper rash ointments and creams</li> <li>• Diaphragms</li> <li>• Dietary supplements (including products such as vitamins, minerals, tonics, fibre, protein powders and herbal supplements – generally taken for their therapeutic effects and available in various forms including pill, capsule, tablet, powder, gel, wafer and concentrate)</li> <li>• Disinfectants</li> <li>• Dog chews – rawhide and other dog treats</li> <li>• Dog food</li> <li>• Drain cleaners</li> <li>• Dressings – hair</li> <li>• Drugs and medicines – <b>that can be obtained without a prescription</b></li> <li>• Dry cleaning services</li> <li>• Dust removers</li> </ul>
E	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encyclopedias</li> <li>• Energy bars and protein bars that qualify as meal replacements (but not dietary supplements such as vitamins, minerals, tonics, fibre, protein powders and herbal supplements)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ear preparations</li> <li>• Earrings</li> <li>• Eczema preparations</li> <li>• Elastic</li> <li>• Electrical appliances</li> </ul>

EXEMPT E (continued)	TAXABLE E (continued)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *External diagnostic agents purchased by individuals for diabetic blood and urine testing</li> <li>• Elastic hosiery, including anti-embolic stockings and venous pressure gradient elastic supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electrical supplies - cords, plugs, fuses, light bulbs</li> <li>• Electronic cigarettes &amp; accessories (<b>effective June 1, 2025</b>, in addition to VPT – refer to <a href="#">Section C</a>)</li> <li>• Envelopes</li> <li>• Eye preparations, including drops and contact lens solutions</li> <li>• Ergonomic supports – bed, chair, pillow, back, neck, wrist, foot</li> </ul>
F	F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Feeding utensils designed for disabled individuals</li> <li>• Feminine hygiene products – tampons, menstrual cups, sanitary pads and belts</li> <li>• Fertilizers</li> <li>• Firewood, compressed fire logs and pellets (heating and cooking)</li> <li>• Fruit juice (including frozen concentrated) containing 25 per cent or more natural juice</li> <li>• Fungicides (sold for farm use or to cities, towns and RMs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fabric glue</li> <li>• Fabric materials</li> <li>• Face cream and cleaners</li> <li>• Face make-up preparations</li> <li>• Face masks – cloth and disposable</li> <li>• Facial tissues</li> <li>• Feminine hygiene products – sprays, deodorants, douches, wipes</li> <li>• Film</li> <li>• Film processing</li> <li>• First aid creams</li> <li>• First aid kits</li> <li>• Flashbulbs</li> <li>• Fluoride</li> <li>• Flower bulbs and seeds</li> <li>• Flowers – cut, artificial, potted</li> <li>• Fondue fuel</li> <li>• Food heated for consumption</li> <li>• Food supplements in powder, pill, capsule or liquid form</li> <li>• Foot medications</li> <li>• Foot powders</li> <li>• Fruit juice (less than 25 per cent natural juice)</li> <li>• Fungicides</li> <li>• Furniture polish</li> <li>• Fuses</li> </ul>
G	G
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garden books</li> <li>• *Grab bars and gripping devices designed for disabled individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Games</li> <li>• Garbage bags</li> <li>• Garden seeds and bulbs</li> <li>• Garden tools, equipment, furniture</li> <li>• Gargles and rinses</li> <li>• Gauze</li> <li>• Gels – hair setting</li> <li>• Germicides</li> </ul>

EXEMPT G (continued)	TAXABLE G (continued)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glass cleaners</li> <li>• Gloves – rubber/disposable, cloth</li> <li>• Glues</li> <li>• Grass seed</li> <li>• Greeting cards</li> <li>• Grooming aids</li> <li>• Gloves – rubber/disposable, cloth</li> <li>• Growing medium (soil-less) for plants</li> <li>• Gum</li> </ul>
H	H
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hearing aids, parts and batteries</li> <li>• Herbicides</li> <li>• Herbal tea (taxable if prepared for consumption)</li> <li>• Herbs/spices</li> <li>• *Home traction kits</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hairbrushes, combs, curlers</li> <li>• Heat liniment/cream</li> <li>• Heating pads</li> <li>• Hair care - dyes, sprays, removers, gels, shampoos, tonics, creams, dressings, conditioners, perms</li> <li>• Hair ribbons and bows</li> <li>• Handbags</li> <li>• Hand creams, lotions</li> <li>• Heart rate monitors</li> <li>• Hemorrhoid preparations</li> <li>• Hosiery</li> <li>• Hot water bottles and ice bags</li> <li>• Household cleaners, cloths, and towels</li> <li>• Humidifiers</li> </ul>
I	I
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ice</li> <li>• *Ileostomy units</li> <li>• Immobilizers (“braces and supports”)</li> <li>• Incontinent products including bags, pants, pads, diapers, liners and urinary drainage bags</li> <li>• Insecticides (sold for farm use or to cities, towns and RMs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inhalants</li> <li>• Insecticides</li> <li>• Insect repellants (sprays, coils, lotions)</li> <li>• Insoles</li> <li>• Iodine</li> <li>• Inhalants</li> </ul>
J	J
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jars – canning</li> <li>• Jewelry</li> </ul>
K	K
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knee braces and supports</li> <li>• Knitting books</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kitchen ware, utensils</li> <li>• Kits (needlepoint, petti point, crochet, etc.)</li> <li>• Kitty litter</li> <li>• Knitting bags</li> </ul>
L	L
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Lancet holders</li> <li>• *Lancets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lactose drops, pills</li> <li>• Laundry supplies</li> </ul>

EXEMPT L (continued)	TAXABLE L (continued)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lottery tickets</li> <li>• Livestock medication including sprays for warbles and similar diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lawn seed</li> <li>• Light bulbs</li> <li>• Lighter fluid</li> <li>• Lighters</li> <li>• Liniments – liquid/cream</li> <li>• Lip balms</li> <li>• Liquid soap</li> <li>• Loose leaf binders</li> <li>• Lozenges – medicated or other</li> <li>• Lye</li> </ul>
M	M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magazines</li> <li>• Matches</li> <li>• Meal replacement products including formulated liquid diet products (but not dietary supplements such as vitamins, minerals, tonics, fibre, protein powders and herbal supplements)</li> <li>• *Medical alert bracelets</li> <li>• *Medical alert monitoring systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Machine oil</li> <li>• Maps (atlases are <b>exempt</b>)</li> <li>• Magnetic bracelets and necklaces</li> <li>• Medications – <b>that can be obtained without a prescription</b></li> <li>• Minerals (supplements)</li> <li>• Mothballs</li> <li>• Motor oil</li> <li>• Mouthwashes</li> </ul>
N	N
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Napkins - sanitary</li> <li>• *Nebulizers</li> <li>• *Needles and syringes used by diabetics</li> <li>• Newspapers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Napkins – paper/cloth</li> <li>• Nasal sprays, drops</li> <li>• Needles and syringes (<b>except</b> for diabetic use purchased by individuals)</li> <li>• Nicotine gum, patches, and other nicotine-only products (refer to <a href="#">Section C</a> regarding vapour products)</li> <li>• Nose drops, sprays</li> <li>• Nursing pads</li> <li>• Nylons</li> </ul>
O	O
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orthopaedic appliances, including trusses and parts, cervical collars, spinal braces, sacroiliac belts and supports</li> <li>• Orthopaedic insoles (must be custom inserts)</li> <li>• Orthopaedic shoes (must be prescribed by a duly qualified medical practitioner)</li> <li>• *Ostomy equipment and supplies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ointments – medicated or other</li> <li>• Onion sets, bulbs</li> <li>• Ornamental plants</li> <li>• Oven cleaners</li> <li>• Oven mitts</li> </ul>
P	P
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodicals</li> <li>• Prescription drugs – that can only be obtained by prescription from a duly qualified practitioner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Panty hose</li> <li>• Paper – toilet, towels, wax, napkins</li> <li>• Party favours</li> <li>• Patterns – clothing, knitting, crochet</li> <li>• Peat moss</li> <li>• Pencils</li> <li>• Pens</li> </ul>

EXEMPT P (continued)	TAXABLE P (continued)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perfumes</li> <li>• Peroxide</li> <li>• Personal hygiene supplies</li> <li>• Personal protective equipment and supplies</li> <li>• Pet food, including vitamins and dietary supplements</li> <li>• Pet supplies, toys</li> <li>• Petroleum jelly</li> <li>• Photo albums</li> <li>• Pictures, picture frames</li> <li>• Pipes, pipe cleaners, filters</li> <li>• Plastic – plates, cups, cutlery</li> <li>• Polish – shoe, floor, furniture, metal</li> <li>• Porous plasters</li> <li>• Postcards</li> <li>• Pre-moistened towelettes</li> <li>• Pregnancy test kits</li> <li>• Prepared foods and beverages (refer to <a href="#">Appendix</a> and <a href="#">PST-33</a>)</li> <li>• Prophylactics</li> <li>• Psoriasis preparations</li> <li>• Purses</li> </ul>
R	R
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• *Reaching aids designed for disabled individuals</li> <li>• *Reagent strips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raid insecticides, coils, sprays</li> <li>• Razor blades</li> <li>• Reusable shopping bags</li> <li>• Rinses and gargles</li> <li>• Room sprays</li> <li>• Rubber gloves</li> <li>• Rubbing alcohol</li> <li>• Rug/upholstery cleaners</li> <li>• Rubber gloves</li> </ul>
S	S
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stamps – postage</li> <li>• Support hose and surgical stockings</li> <li>• Surgical supports, appliances and parts</li> <li>• *Syringes and needles used by diabetics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seam binding materials</li> <li>• Seeds – flower, vegetable, grass, sprouting</li> <li>• Spinal rolls and pillows</li> <li>• Sports cards, including those sold with gum</li> <li>• Shampoos</li> <li>• Shaving supplies</li> <li>• Shoelaces</li> <li>• Shoe polish, dyes</li> <li>• Shrubs</li> <li>• Silver polish</li> <li>• Skin creams and lotions</li> <li>• Snack foods</li> </ul>



EXEMPT S (continued)	TAXABLE S (continued)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soaps – pads, flakes, powders, toilet, detergents, bath, medicated or otherwise</li> <li>• Soaps – pads, flakes, powders, toilet, detergents, bath, medicated or otherwise</li> <li>• Stamp albums</li> <li>• Stationery</li> <li>• Sunglasses (non-prescription)</li> <li>• Sun lamps</li> <li>• Sunburn medications</li> <li>• Sunscreen and tanning lotions/sprays/oils</li> <li>• Suppositories</li> <li>• Surgical dressings</li> <li>• Suspensories</li> <li>• Syringes and needles (<b>except</b> for diabetic use purchased by individuals)</li> </ul>
T	T
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tampons</li> <li>• Trusses and parts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talcum powders</li> <li>• Teething lotions</li> <li>• Tensor bandages</li> <li>• Thermometers</li> <li>• Thread</li> <li>• Throat sprays</li> <li>• Tissue paper</li> <li>• Tobacco</li> <li>• Toilet cleaners</li> <li>• Toilet paper</li> <li>• Toiletries</li> <li>• Tomato plants</li> <li>• Toothbrushes</li> <li>• Toothache drops</li> <li>• Toothpaste and powders</li> <li>• Toys</li> <li>• Tropical plants</li> </ul>
V	V
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaporizers</li> <li>• Vapour products (<b>effective June 1, 2025</b>, in addition to VPT – refer to <a href="#">Section C</a>)</li> <li>• Vegetable seeds</li> <li>• Vermiculite</li> <li>• Veterinary medicaments for pets</li> <li>• Video rentals</li> <li>• Vitamins</li> </ul>
W	W
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkers</li> <li>• Wheelchair batteries</li> <li>• Weed control chemicals</li> <li>• Wheelchair batteries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wallets</li> <li>• Water softener salt</li> <li>• Wave sets</li> <li>• Wax paper</li> </ul>

EXEMPT W (continued)	TAXABLE W (continued)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wheelchair replacement cushions</li> <li>• Wheelchairs</li> <li>• Wine kits, including kits with labels, corks and shrink capsules</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waxes and conditioners for floors and furniture</li> <li>• Wet wipes</li> <li>• Window cleaners</li> <li>• Wine making equipment</li> <li>• Wine kits that include wine making equipment</li> <li>• Wool</li> <li>• Wrist straps and wristbands</li> <li>• Writing materials</li> </ul>
Y	Y
Z	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yard goods and notions</li> <li>• Zippers</li> </ul>
	Z

## B. EXEMPT SALES

Grocery and drug stores are not required to collect the tax on taxable goods sold to the following:

- Goods sold to other vendors for resale (the purchaser's PST vendor's licence number must be recorded on the sales invoice);
- Goods that are shipped out of province by the vendor (evidence of shipment must be retained);
- Goods sold to federal government departments or agencies (goods sold to federal crown corporations, provincial government ministries or agencies or to provincial crown corporations are subject to tax); and,
- Sales to Status Indians, Indian bands or non-commercial band-empowered entities are exempt from PST providing the goods are delivered to a reserve by the vendor or a third-party carrier arranged by the vendor. To qualify for the exemption, an individual must present their *Certificate of Indian Status* card and the vendor must record the complete 10-digit card number on the sales invoice. For an Indian band or non-commercial band-empowered entity, the band number and band name must be recorded on the sales invoice. A band-empowered entity must also certify that the purchase is for non-commercial band-management activities. **The vendor must retain documentation to support the exemption, including proof of delivery such as a waybill, freight bill or postal receipt.** Please refer to Information Bulletin [PST-63, Sales to First Nations Individuals and Organizations](#) for further information.

## C. VAPOUR PRODUCTS TAX AND RETAIL SALES OF VAPOUR PRODUCTS

Vapour Products Tax (VPT) at the rate of 20 per cent applies to all vapour products pursuant to *The Vapour Products Tax Act*.

**Effective June 1, 2025**, PST at the rate of six per cent applies to vapour products sold. Retailers of vapour products will be required to collect and remit PST on vapour products in addition to the VPT. GST and PST are excluded when calculating the amount of VPT payable.

For further information regarding products subject to VPT, please refer to Information Bulletin [VPT-1, Vapour Products Tax](#).

#### **D. LIQUOR CONSUMPTION TAX**

Liquor Consumption Tax (LCT) at the rate of 10 per cent applies to the total selling price of beer, wine, and spirits.

PST does not apply to wine, beer, spirits or other alcoholic beverages.

For further information, please refer to Information Bulletin [LCT-1, The Liquor Consumption Tax](#).

#### **E. GIFT BASKETS AND OTHER PACKAGED GOODS**

In general, PST must be collected on the fair-market value of the taxable portion of gift baskets and other packaged goods sold for a single price.

Vendors are required to include the value of any decorative/personalized basket or other container (e.g., vase, ornament, custom labelled, etc.) as part of the portion subject to PST, unless the basket/container is used only as packaging material considered disposable and of no further value to the consumer.

To determine how to apply tax when a gift basket or other package includes taxable and exempt items, or items subject to one or more of the PST, Liquor Consumption Tax (LCT), and Vapour Products Tax (VPT), please refer to Information Notice [IN 2023-03, Gift Baskets and Other Packaged Goods](#).

#### **F. SALES OF USED BUSINESS ASSETS**

Businesses are required to collect tax on the sale of used assets, such as taxable vehicles and equipment. When used assets are being sold pursuant to the closure of a business, the purchaser is required to self-assess and report the tax.

When individuals purchase used goods for personal use, other than vehicles, tax applies to the selling price of the goods less a deduction of \$300 per item.

If a trade-in is involved, the purchaser is entitled to a deduction of \$300 or the value of the trade-in, whichever is greater. If the goods are for commercial use, the \$300 deduction does not apply.

For further information please refer to Information Bulletin [PST-58, Used Goods](#).

## **G. GOODS AND SERVICES FOR YOUR OWN USE**

Businesses are required to pay tax on purchases of new and used equipment, supplies and taxable services purchased for use in their business operations. Tax is payable as follows:

- When purchased from a licensed supplier, the tax must be paid to the supplier at the time of purchase.
- When purchased from a supplier who did not collect the tax, or when taken from an exempt resale inventory, the tax must be self-assessed and remitted with the regular tax return. This includes goods taken for personal or business use.
- When purchased from an unlicensed supplier located outside Saskatchewan, the tax must be self-assessed and remitted with the regular tax return on the laid down cost, which includes currency exchange, transportation charges, customs and excise duties, and importation charges - but not the GST.

## **H. TAX TIPS LINE**

When a business or individual does not comply with provincial tax legislation, businesses face unfair competition, and a burden is placed on all taxpayers who do comply. It causes significant loss in the revenue available to fund services such as health, education and other important government programs.

The Tax Tips Line provides an anonymous, fully confidential way for the public to report businesses or individuals who are participating in tax fraud. If you suspect that a business or individual is being dishonest with their provincial taxes or is misrepresenting their activities to reduce their taxes, you can report them using the Tax Tips Line.

Please visit our website at [saskatchewan.ca/business/taxes-licensing-and-reporting/provincial-taxes-policies-and-bulletins/tax-tips-line](https://saskatchewan.ca/business/taxes-licensing-and-reporting/provincial-taxes-policies-and-bulletins/tax-tips-line) to find out more regarding types of tax fraud and the information to report, if possible.

The Tax Tips Line is specifically and solely for information related to provincial tax compliance. Any unrelated inquiries or information will not be addressed by the Tax Tips Line, and should be directed to the appropriate organization.

How to Report:

- 1) Toll-free 1-833-334-8477
- 2) Write: Ministry of Finance  
Revenue Division  
PO Box 200  
REGINA SK S4P 2Z6
- 3) [Online Form Submission](#)

## **I. SASKATCHEWAN eTax SERVICES (SETS)**

Finance has made it possible to report and remit tax electronically through a secure, fast, easy and convenient online self-service portal. Several services are currently available to businesses through SETS ([sets.saskatchewan.ca](https://sets.saskatchewan.ca)):

- Register for secure, self-managed access to all your tax accounts.
- Apply for a new tax account.
- File and pay returns and amend previously filed returns.
- Make payments on account, including post-dated payments.
- View account balance and statement information.
- Authorize employees or accountants to file on your behalf.
- Receive notifications by email when a tax return should be filed. This replaces the paper forms usually sent in the mail.
- Submit a service request to update the mailing address or add a new business location.
- Submit a service request to receive tax information, interpretations or rulings related to your specific business activities.
- View and download up-to-date tax information promptly.
- Subscribe to receive email notifications when new and revised tax publications are available.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Write: Ministry of Finance  
Revenue Division  
PO Box 200  
REGINA SK S4P 2Z6

Telephone: Toll Free 1-800-667-6102  
Regina 306-787-6645

Email: [sasktaxinfo@gov.sk.ca](mailto:sasktaxinfo@gov.sk.ca)

Internet: Tax bulletins, forms and information are available at [saskatchewan.ca/business-taxes](https://saskatchewan.ca/business-taxes).

To receive automatic email notifications when this or any other bulletin is revised, go to [sets.saskatchewan.ca/subscribe](https://sets.saskatchewan.ca/subscribe).

To provide feedback or suggest changes to this bulletin, please complete a [Bulletin Survey](#).

Government website: [Saskatchewan.ca](https://Saskatchewan.ca)

## **APPENDIX**

### **TAXABLE AND EXEMPT FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

Food and beverage products are subject to PST on the same basis as the usual application of GST, therefore when tax applies for GST purposes, PST also applies.

### **TAX EXEMPT FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

#### **Basic groceries**

- Baby food, including beverages and baby formula mixtures.
- Baking supplies including chocolate chips, baker's chocolate and other ingredients that are mixed in with or used in the preparation of food and beverages for human consumption, including edible cake decorations.
- Bottled water, 600 ml and larger, or any size packaged in multiples by the manufacturer.
- Bread and bread products such as bagels, soft pretzels, pita bread, naan bread, focaccia, croissants, scones, tea biscuits or rolls without sweetened filling or coating.
- Breakfast cereal.
- Cereal bars and muffin bars in boxes containing six or more bars, but not including boxes/cartons of cereal or muffin bars intended for individual sale.
- Coffee, tea, cocoa and substitutes but not when prepared for consumption.
- Cold cooked foods sold from unheated or refrigerated shelves at an eating establishment or grocery store to be re-heated by the purchaser.
- Condiments such as mustard, ketchup, BBQ sauce, chip dip and salsa.
- Cooking oil or spray, cooking wines and food preserved in alcohol normally sold in a grocery store.
- Crackers (other than graham crackers), croutons, unsweetened rice cakes.
- Dough and pastry such as pie shells, puff pastry and cookie dough.
- Eggs and egg products.
- Fish and fish products, but not arrangements such as shrimp rings, or items heated for consumption.
- Food, such as pizza, that is fully prepared but sold uncooked.
- Frozen sandwiches, hamburgers and similar products.
- Frozen fruit juices that in concentrated form contain 25 per cent or more natural fruit juice, even if the beverage contains less than 25 per cent natural fruit juice in its reconstituted form.
- Fruits and vegetables, including fresh, frozen, canned and vacuum sealed and including mix varieties.
- Herbs and spices for use as food seasoning.
- Ice made from water suitable for human consumption, sold as ice cubes or in blocks.
- Ice cream, ice milk, frozen yoghurt, sherbet, ice cream cake, frozen pudding and non-dairy substitutes, except single serving size less than 500 ml or 500 grams (these items sold in multiples of single servings are taxable).
- Iced tea mixtures including fruit-flavoured iced tea mixtures.

- Jams, jellies and peanut butter.
- Lunch combinations such as cheese and crackers packaged and promoted as pre-packaged lunch kits for children.
- Meal replacement bars and beverages, and nutritional supplements that are ingredients for food or beverages. Meat and meat products, such as jerky and pepperoni sticks, but not arrangements such as cold-cut platters, or items heated for consumption.
- Milk and milk-based products (except chocolate and other flavoured milk sold in a single serving).
- Non-carbonated fruit juice beverages that contain 25 per cent or more natural fruit juice by volume, when sold in quantities greater than a single serving or in multiples packaged by the manufacturer.
- Salad dressing.
- Salad kits that are vacuum sealed, consisting of ingredients such as chopped vegetables, bacon bits, croutons, seasoning and /or salad dressing packaged in a separate compartment or container but not prepared salads where the dressing and other ingredients are mixed together.
- Salads – Vegetable, fruit or gelatin salads packaged in cans, or in containers that are vacuum sealed.
- Salt for human consumption, but not when packaged for industrial use.
- Sugar, sweetening agents, artificial sweeteners.
- Sweetened baked goods, except single servings less than 230 grams unless packaged in quantities of six items or more.
- Syrups, crystals, powders and flavouring to make beverages, but not to make fruit-flavoured beverages that contain less than 25 per cent natural fruit juice by volume.
- Unbottled water when dispensed in quantities greater than a single serving from a vending machine or at the premises of the seller, or provided by a municipality or by a private water hauler.
- Unpopped popcorn kernels including microwave popcorn.
- Yoghurt except fruit-flavoured yoghurt beverages containing less than 25 per cent natural fruit juice by volume.

## **TAXABLE FOOD AND BEVERAGES**

### **Beverages**

- Carbonated beverages, including carbonated water.
- De-alcoholized beer and wine.
- Chocolate and other flavoured milk sold in a single serving size, except multiples packaged by the manufacturer.
- Fruit-flavoured yoghurt beverages that contain less than 25 per cent natural fruit juice by volume and are not milk-based.
- Fruit juice beverages, combination fruit and vegetable beverages and fruit-flavoured beverages that contain less than 25 per cent natural or reconstituted fruit juice by volume.
- Powdered fruit-flavoured beverage mixes which require mixing with water but not iced tea mixes which are exempt from tax.

### **Dietary Supplements**

- Products which are labelled or described as dietary supplements are not considered to be basic groceries, even though they may contain some essential nutritional elements.
- Dietary supplements, such as those sold in liquid or powder format, that are simply mixed with food or beverages as a method of consumption are taxable and not considered an exempt food ingredient.
- Dietary supplements in pill, capsule, tablet or other similar form, made from synthetic or natural ingredients are taxable. This includes vitamins, fish oils, minerals, fibre products, tonics and herbs and spices sold in pill, tablet and capsule form. Meal replacement bars and beverages, and nutritional supplements that are ingredients for food or beverages are exempt.
- Weight gain/loss products sold in pill, capsule or tablet form are taxable.
- Products that are consumed for their therapeutic or beneficial effects, list dosage restrictions, warnings on who should not consume the product or directions on how it should be consumed are generally considered dietary supplements (taxable).

### **Prepared Food and Beverages**

- Food and beverages sold in a heated state for consumption.
- Food and beverages sold under a contract for, or in conjunction with, catering services (including any applicable catering charges).
- Platters or arrangements of food such as desserts, cheese, cold-cuts, fruits and vegetables.

### **Salads**

- Vegetable, fruit or gelatin salads sold in prepared form but not including salads in cans or in containers that are vacuum sealed.

### **Sandwiches**

- Ready to eat fresh, refrigerated or heated sandwiches, submarines, pita bread, tortillas.
- Ready to eat hot dogs and hamburgers.

### **Snack Foods**

- Candy, chewing gum, marshmallows.
- Cereal bars or muffin bars when sold individually and when sold in boxes containing less than six bars.
- Chips, crisps, puffs, curls or sticks, such as potato chips, corn chips, cheese puffs, potato sticks, bacon crisps and cheese curls, and other similar snack foods or popped popcorn and brittle pretzels but not including any product sold primarily as a breakfast cereal.
- Chocolates and chocolate bars.
- Fruit bars, rolls or drops or similar fruit-based snack foods.
- Granola products such as granola bars, but not including any product that is sold primarily as breakfast cereal.



- Ice cream, ice milk, frozen yoghurt, sherbet, ice cream cake, frozen pudding and non-dairy substitutes, when packaged or sold in single servings of less than 500 ml or 500 grams, these items sold in multiples of single servings are also taxable.
- Ice lollies, juice bars, juice sticks, flavoured, coloured or sweetened ice waters or similar products, whether frozen or not.
- Mixed nuts whether salted or not, unless the mixture is in its natural unprocessed state.
- Nuts, popcorn, raisins and other items when coated or treated with candy, chocolate, molasses, sugar or syrup.
- Nut bars.
- Protein bars and energy bars unless they are marketed as meal replacement bars.
- Pudding including flavoured gelatine, mousse, flavoured whipped dessert product or any similar product sold in a single serving size, except multiples packaged by the manufacturer.
- Salted nuts, salted seeds, and mixtures including when coated or seasoned and have salt as an ingredient.
- Snack mixtures that contain cereals, nuts, seeds, dried fruit or any other product, but not including any mixture sold as breakfast cereal.