



# FAQ: MUNICIPAL TAXES

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: HOG | PAYING | DEFERRING | CHANGES

### WAYS TO PAY | DEFERRING

**Q: Can I pay my property taxes online?**

**A:** To pay your taxes online, you need to go into your online banking and set up Sooke (District of) Taxes as a payee. Enter your folio number, minus the decimal, as your account number.

**Q: Can I pre-pay my taxes monthly?**

**A:** The District of Sooke offers a monthly prepayment program. We take 10 equal payments starting on the first business day of each month from August until May. An 11<sup>th</sup> payment is taken out on the property tax due date if there is still a balance owing.

**Q: Can I pay with my credit card?**

**A:** The District of Sooke does not accept credit cards. You can pay in person with cash, cheque or debit card.

**Q: I would like to defer my property tax – can I apply at the municipal hall?**

**A:** Starting for the 2020 tax year, municipalities no longer accept deferment applications. You must contact the Province of BC to apply. Phone: 250-387-0555 or email: [TaxDeferment@gov.bc.ca](mailto:TaxDeferment@gov.bc.ca)

**Q: I have not received a tax notice, what should I do?**

**A:** Tax notices were mailed the last week of May. If you have not received your notice, contact the municipal hall to request a copy by email, fax or mail.

**Q: I received a tax notice for a property that I no longer own, what should I do?**

**A:** If you have the information for the new owner, it is suggested that you forward the tax notice on to them. Alternatively, you can return it to the municipal hall.

**Q: I am a new owner, and my name is not on the tax notice. What should I do?**

**A:** If your name does not appear on the tax notice, but you are the registered owner and are eligible for the Home Owner Grant (HOG), still apply for the grant – then bring a copy of the ‘Transfer of Title’ documentation with the title number on it. Our Land Records Department can make the change for you.

**Q: Do I qualify for the regular Home Owner Grant (HOG)?**

**A:** Yes, if: you are under 65, not a person with disabilities, are a Canadian citizen, and a permanent resident of BC. You must own the home and it must be your principle residence. You can only claim one grant per person and per property during a calendar year.

**Q: I did not claim my Home Owner Grant (HOG) last year; can I still claim it?**

**A:** You may claim a retro HOG for the previous year (if you meet the eligibility requirements until December 31 of the current year).

**Q: If I am selling my home, who should apply for the Home Owner Grant (HOG) and pay the taxes?**

**A:** If you have not yet sold the property, and are eligible for the grant, apply for it. If you have already sold the property, and the new owner(s) reside there, the new owner(s) should apply for it, as long as they have not claimed a grant for another property in the current year. The price of a property is generally adjusted to account for the property taxes.



**Q: My mortgage company pays my taxes. Can I still get the grant?**

**A:** It is your responsibility to claim your HOG each year. Please return your completed application to the District of Sooke – not to your mortgage company. Also, it is your responsibility to ensure that your mortgage company is paying the correct amount based on the grant that you are claiming.

**Q: Why am I penalized for not claiming my grant?**

**A:** You can reduce the amount of taxes owing by claiming grants that you are eligible for. Until you claim your grant, the total remains outstanding. Grants must be claimed **each** year.

**Q: Do I qualify for the additional grant?**

**A:** Yes, if you are:

- a) 65 years or older; or
- b) a person with disabilities; or
- c) the spouse or relative of an owner, who passed away in the current year who would have been eligible; and, occupied the residence on the date of the owner's death.

**Q: My spouse/relative passed away, how do I get the name on the tax notice changed?**

**A:** Any changes to the ownership of a property, including name changes, need to be filed at the Land Title Office: Suite 110-1321 Blanchard St. in Victoria. Phone: 1-877-577-5872.

**Q: How would I qualify under person with disabilities?**

**A:** You receive a disability allowance under the BC Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act. OR You are disabled or have a disabled spouse or relative residing permanently with you and you have provided a Form B certification and you:

Pay at least \$150/month during the calendar year to help the person with disabilities with **daily living activities\*** in your principle residence, **or** have spent min. \$2,000 on **structural modifications\*** to your principle residence, **or** purchased your principle residence that has had **structural modifications\*** completed by previous owner at the cost of at least \$2,000.

Note: Being a recipient of the Canada Pension Plan disability benefits does not automatically qualify you for an additional grant.

**\* Original receipts, and any associated documentation, are required when you apply.**

**Q: What is the period of the tax year?**

**A:** The tax year runs the calendar year, January 1 to December 31.

**Q: My property tax notice shows that I have a credit, can I ask for a refund?**

**A:** Yes, you can, provided the credit amount was paid by you. If your mortgage company overpaid, then the monies are returned to the mortgage company upon request. The only way that we can refund you for a payment not made by you is to get something in writing from original payer.

**Q: I heard that the penalty date has changed. Will I get a penalty July 3?**

**A:** The late payment penalty has been changed to October 1, 2020 for Commercial Properties only. (Classes 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8). The penalty date of July 3, 2020 remains the same for Class 1 (residential), Class 2 (utility) and Class 9 (farm).

Any other questions?

Contact us:  
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