

Vessel Information

Vessel Registration Period

Washington vessels are registered from July 1st of the year through June 30 of the following year.

The Vessel renewal season begins on April 1st of each year, but a vessel can be renewed up to 90 days before the next registration year.

Vessel Registration

Unless exempt, no person may own, operate or have on Washington waters any vessel unless the vessel has been registered. "Registered" means applicable registration fees and excise tax were paid for the current period and a validation decal has been issued and is placed on the Vessel.

The registration certificate must be signed by at least one registered owner and carried on the vessel for which it is issued, and when it is being used. The validation title application becomes the registration when it shows a current expiration date.

Exemption From Titling A Vessel

Although applied for, we will not issue a title in these circumstances:

- Vessel is issued a valid marine document (documented), or
- Lienholder is holding a foreign vessel title
- The US Government or a local government owns the vessel

Title Required

In order to register a vessel in the state of Washington, the owner(s) must apply for a title. This title must be transferred or reissued when:

- Sale, gift, inheritance, divorce, lost title, ect.
- The title must be reissued to add, change or delete a lienholder.
- To change the owner's name (same owner, different name)
- When the vessel Hull Identification Number, make or model year changes.
- When a secondary lienholder is added.