

**CITY OF SALEM, VIRGINIA
BOOK OF RATES AND FEES**

COMMISSIONER OF THE REVENUE

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PREPARED FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX (MEALS TAX)

Assessing Department:

Commissioner of the Revenue

Collecting Department:

Treasurer

Description:

Commonly referred to as a meals tax, this is a tax levied on the purchaser of all prepared food and beverages served in and from any food establishment as defined in the Salem City Code Section 82-101, whether intended to be consumed on the seller's premises or not. For the purpose of this tax "Food" shall be defined as any and all edible refreshment or nourishment, including alcoholic beverages, with the exception of prepackaged snack foods and unopened canned or bottled drinks not included with a meal which shall be exempt from taxation. Sellers may not relieve the customer of payment of this tax.

Rates or Fees	Amount
The Prepared Food and Beverage Tax (Meals Tax) is	6%
Due Date: Payment must be postmarked by the end of the month following the month in which the tax is collected to avoid penalties. Filing and payments can be performed online at https://laserfiche.salemva.gov/Forms/FileMT. If mailing payments it needs to be postmarked on or before the 20th of the month following the month the tax is collected in order to take a discount of 3% of the tax amount. Remit to Commissioner of the Revenue PO Box 869 Salem VA 24153 and make all checks payable to the City of Salem Treasurer (Online payments are accepted, see instructions bolded above).	3% discount if filed by the 20th of the following month
	10% the first month, 5% for each month thereafter, up to a maximum of 25% or \$10.00 whichever is greater
Penalty for Late Payment: Shall in no case exceed the amount of the tax assessable.	
Interest: May commence not earlier than the first day following the day such taxes are due.	10% Annually
In the case of a false or fraudulent return with intent to defraud the city of any tax due under this article, a penalty of 50 percent of the tax shall be assessed against the person required to collect such tax.	
Failure to Pay or Violation of Code: Any person violating or failing to comply with any provision of the Code governing this tax, shall be guilty of a Class 1 Misdemeanor. Conviction of such violation shall not relieve such person from the payment, collection, or remittance of the Prepared Food and Beverage Tax (Meals Tax). Collecting, but failing to remit this tax shall constitute embezzlement per 18.2-111 of the Code of Virginia.	

Legal Authorization:

Ordinances, Effective dates: (10-06-2016); (01-02-2013); (02-01-2012); (06-22-2000); (04-08-1991); (12-01-1988)

Resolutions: 921 (03-22-1999); 437 (09-27-1982)

Salem City Code, Chapter 82, Article IV, Section 82-101-113

Code of Virginia, Title 58.1, Subtitle III, Chapter 38, Section 58.1-3077; Title 58.1, Subtitle III, Chapter 36, Article 8, Section 58.1-3840; Title 58.1, Subtitle III, Chapter 39, Article 2, Section 58.1-3916