



FAQs about the new Pine Tree/No Tree License Plates

Starting May 1, 2025, chickadee license plates will no longer be issued and will be replaced for those who currently hold them, including those that are considered vanity and low-digit.

Why are the plates changing? In 2023, the State Legislature gave the Maine Bureau of Motor Vehicles until May 1, 2025, to design and issue a new plate to replace all current chickadee plates. The last reissuance was in 1999, and many chickadee plates are old, in disrepair, or have lost their reflectivity.

Which plates are changing? Any plates that currently have a chickadee on them will be changing. This includes passenger, commercial, antique, disability, combination, motor home, custom vehicle, bus, farm, commercial tractor, tractor, special equipment, hire, low-speed, horseless carriage, and street rod.

What if I don't want either the Pine Tree or No Tree Plate? If you don't want either the Pine Tree or No Tree plate, you may choose to upgrade your plates to a specialty plate for the specialty plate fee of \$20.00. i.e., Sportsman, Animal Welfare, Black Bear, Lighthouse, Conservation, Breast Cancer Awareness, and Agriculture.

What if I want to keep the same number that I have on my plate? If you have a vanity plate, a low-digit plate, or want to keep the same plate number, you may reserve it for a one-time fee of \$25.00. To reserve your number on one of the new-style plates, you can either obtain a paper form at the Town Office, visit a nearby Branch Office (i.e., Augusta or Rumford), or go online <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/bmv/rapid-renewal/reservation/start>. You will receive your plates in the mail approximately one month before they are due to be renewed. You MUST bring your reserved plates into the Town Office at the time of renewal to be able to use them.

What if I don't care what number plate I receive? If you don't care about keeping your same plate number, the Town Office will give you a new plate from our inventory at the time of renewal.

Do I have to wait for time of renewal to get the new plate? Yes and no. You may receive a new plate before your time of renewal, but you will have to pay an \$11.00 plate change fee. There is no fee if you wait to change the plate at the time of renewal. This is due to us only being provided inventory to cover 2 months' worth of plate change renewals.

What do I do with the chickadee plates when I get the Pine Tree or No Tree Plate? Customers will be able to recycle their old plates.

We thank you in advance for all of your patience! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Industry Town Office at (207) 778-5050.