

TEXAS WINDOW TINT LAW 2023 – A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE



It's crucial to prioritize safety on the road and do everything possible to prevent car accidents and keep everyone safe – including drivers and pedestrians. That's why authorities are working hard to create guidelines for window tinting that can help with this. While there's no one-size-fits-all approach for window tint regulations across all states, it's a good idea to take some time to get familiar with the specific rules in your area if you plan to drive to Texas or any other state.

The implementation of the Texas window tint law dates back to the year 2009 when it was officially introduced and put into effect. This law sets specific guidelines and regulations for how much tint can be applied to the windows of vehicles driven on public roads in Texas. The law was enacted to enhance road safety for drivers and pedestrians by ensuring that drivers have an unobstructed view of the road and can see other vehicles, road signs, and signals. It is worth noting that the Texas window tint law is subject to periodic updates and revisions to reflect changing safety concerns and technological advancements in the automotive industry.

This blog provides comprehensive information about the Texas window tint law, including detailed explanations of various tinting standards, limitations, and state requirements. In addition, the blog provides specific details on the legal requirements

for both front and back windows, as well as the varying degrees of tint allowed. This knowledge will help to protect you while driving in Texas, reducing the likelihood of being pulled over by law enforcement and minimizing the risk of car accidents due to non-compliance with state laws.

What is Window Tinting?

Window tinting is a popular way to improve the appearance of a vehicle and provide added privacy and UV protection for the occupants. In Texas, where the heat can be intense, window tinting can also play a crucial role in keeping the interior of a vehicle cool and comfortable.



What Are the Benefits of Window Tinting in Texas?

Reduces Heat Inside the Vehicle

One of the most significant benefits of window tinting is reducing heat inside the vehicle. The sun's rays can cause the inside of a car to heat up quickly, making it uncomfortable for the occupants. Window tinting can reduce the heat that enters the vehicle by blocking out a significant portion of the sun's rays. This can make a massive difference in the comfort of the occupants, especially during the hot summer months in Texas.

Provides Protection from UV Rays

Another significant benefit of window tinting is its protection from harmful UV rays. UV rays can cause skin damage and increase the risk of skin cancer. Window tinting can block up to 99% of UV rays, protecting the vehicle's occupants.

Provides Added Privacy and Security

In addition to protecting against heat and UV rays, window tinting can provide added privacy and security. Tinted windows can make it more difficult for outsiders to see into the vehicle, providing added privacy for the occupants. This can be especially important for those carrying valuable items in their vehicle or wanting to keep their belongings out of sight.

Improves Overall Vehicle Appearance

Window tinting can also improve the appearance of a vehicle. Tinted windows can give a vehicle a sleek and stylish look. This can be a great way to personalize a vehicle and make it stand out.

Despite the many benefits that window tinting offers, it's important to be aware of the laws and regulations regarding window tinting in Texas. The Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Part 1, Rule 21.3 sets the standards for the amount of light that must be allowed to pass through the windows of a vehicle to be considered legal. Therefore, it's crucial to ensure that the tinting on your vehicle complies with this rule to avoid legal issues.

How Much Is a Tint Ticket in Texas?

One must know how much a tint ticket in Texas costs in case they get pulled over. The price of a tint ticket in Texas can vary depending on the nature of the violation and the county where it occurred. Additionally, Texas law permits a specific level of tint on car windows, with different regulations for front and back windows. As such, it is essential to understand these guidelines to prevent incurring costly tint ticket fines.

If a driver is found to have a tint that is too dark, they may receive a ticket that ranges from \$100 to \$250, depending on the county. Additionally, suppose a driver is pulled over for a tint violation, and the officer discovers other violations, such as expired registration or a broken taillight. In that case, the driver may face additional fines and penalties.

Drivers in Texas need to understand the state's tint laws and ensure that their vehicle complies. If a driver receives a tint ticket, they may have the option to contest the violation in court or pay the fine. It is recommended that drivers consult with a Dallas personal injury attorney for guidance on the best course of action.

Window Tinting Law in Texas

The Texas Administrative Code, Title 37, Part 1, Rule 21.3 is a specific regulation that governs the installation of window tinting on vehicles in Texas. This rule is enforced by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and sets the standards for the amount of light that must be allowed to pass through the windows of a vehicle to be considered legal.

Knowing that the regulations governing window tint application can differ from one type of vehicle to another is essential. For example, in Texas, the rules that apply to passenger cars, SUVs, and vans are distinct from those that apply to commercial vehicles.

Regulation for Cars, SUVs, and Vans

There are specific regulations to remember about the window tint percentages in Texas to ensure you are compliant with the law. The rule states that passenger cars, SUVs, and vans must have at least 25% of the light passing through the front, back, and rear windows. In addition, the windshield may have a non-reflective tint on the top 6 inches. This ensures that the tinting does not interfere with the driver's or other drivers' visibility on the road.

The window shield tint in Texas provides that the top six inches are the only portion that may be tinted with a non-reflective film.

At least one-quarter of the light must be able to pass through the front and side windows.

At least one-quarter of the light must be able to pass through the back and side windows.

There are also restrictions on red, amber, and yellow tints, as they are not considered legal colors for window tinting in Texas. It is important to note that these laws apply to all vehicles, including cars, SUVs, and vans.

It is essential to remember that these guidelines apply to the windows of the vehicle that were tinted during the manufacturing process and that any aftermarket tinting

must follow the regulations. In addition, any aftermarket tinting must be attached to the vehicle's interior; it cannot be applied to the vehicle's exterior in any way.

Regulation for Commercial Vehicles

For commercial vehicles, the standards are slightly different. The rule states that commercial vehicles must have at least 35% of the light passing through the back side windows and rear window. In addition, the front side windows must allow at least 25% of light to pass through, and the windshield may have a non-reflective tint on the top 6 inches.

The standards for passenger cars are not the same as those for trucks and buses. However, the following criteria should be adhered to:

- The top six inches of the windshield are the only part that may be tinted with a non-reflective film.
- At least one-quarter of the light must be able to pass through the front and side windows.
- At least 35 percent of light must pass through the back and side windows.
- At the very least, 35 percent of light must be able to pass through the rear window.
- It is essential to remember that these requirements apply to all commercial vehicles, such as taxis and buses, and private automobiles.

Limitations on Tint Material Used

In addition to these standards, there are restrictions regarding the type of tinting material permitted to be utilized. For example, in Texas, window tinting is allowed only with neither metallic nor reflective materials. This is done to ensure that the tinting does not obstruct the view of the driver or any other drivers on the road simultaneously.

Another common question is whether "5 tint" is legal in Texas. This refers to a tint film that allows only 5% visible light transmission (VLT), which blocks out 95% of visible light. Unfortunately, according to the regulations, "5 tint" is considered an illegal tint in Texas. Five tint is significantly darker than what is allowed under Texas law. Using 5 tint can result in a citation, fine, or even impounding of the vehicle.

Proper Window Tint Sticker Labelling

In order to meet safety regulations for all drivers on the road, it's important to understand that the Texas Transportation Code's Section 547.609 states that each vehicle only needs one label, regardless of how many windows have sunscreens. According to Chapter 21 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC), the Texas Department of Public Safety mandates that the label should be displayed in the lower-rear corner of the driver's side window and can be removed from the passenger side. The label must state "Complies with TRC Chapter 547" (or "Complies with TTC 547.613 (b)" if applicable), and additional information, such as the installer's name, may be included if desired. These regulations strike a balance between ensuring increased visibility and preserving privacy.

Window Tint in Texas Exemptions

There are certain window tint exemptions to the laws in Texas. These exemptions apply to specific groups of individuals or types of vehicles and allow for a higher level of tint on separate windows.

Medical Reasons

One of the most common exemptions is for medical reasons. For example, individuals with certain medical conditions, such as photosensitivity or skin disorders, may be able to apply for a medical exemption that allows for a higher level of tint on their windows. To qualify for this exemption, a person must have a note from a physician stating that the tint is necessary for their medical condition.

Type of Vehicle

Another exemption applies to certain vehicles, such as limousines and other commercial vehicles. In these cases, the laws regarding window tinting may differ and allow for a higher tint on specific windows.

Law Enforcement Vehicles

Law enforcement and emergency vehicles are also exempt from the window tint laws in Texas. This ensures that these vehicles have visibility and safety features while on duty.

It is important to note that these exemptions are only for specific cases. Therefore, individuals must still adhere to the laws regarding window tinting unless they have the proper documentation for an exemption. It is also important to note that the laws

regarding window tinting may change over time, so staying informed and checking for updates is vital.

How To Get a Tint Prescription in Texas?



You may wonder how to get a tint prescription in Texas if you require a tinted window on your vehicle for medical reasons. Fortunately, the process is straightforward and requires only a few simple steps.

The first step in obtaining a tint prescription in Texas is to schedule an appointment with your doctor. During this appointment, your doctor will evaluate your condition and determine whether a tinted window is necessary to manage your medical condition.

If your doctor agrees that a tinted window is necessary, they will provide you with a prescription that outlines the degree of tint required and the specific windows that need tinting. This prescription is typically written on a letterhead and signed by your doctor.

Once you have the prescription, you can take it to a licensed window tint installer who can tint your windows to the degree specified in the prescription. It is essential to ensure that the installer is certified and licensed to apply window tints in Texas, as this will ensure that your tint meets state regulations.

2019 Revised Window Tint Medical Exemption in Texas

In the year 2019, a significant revision was made to the Window Tint Medical Exemption regulations in the state of Texas. This regulatory shift has had far-reaching consequences, which have been felt by drivers and the Regulatory Services Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety alike. In light of this development, the Regulatory Services Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety declared on January 1, 2019, that they would cease the issuance of Window Tint Exemption Certificates. This decision has left drivers without an avenue to apply for a certificate that would exempt their vehicle's windows from state tinting regulations, based on medical reasons.

As it stands, drivers who require tinted windows for medical reasons must provide a signed copy of a medical exemption statement during their vehicle's inspection. The obligation of this requirement is on the driver, who must procure a statement signed by a licensed physician, which details the specific medical condition that necessitates the tinted window, and the degree of tinting required. Additionally, the statement must bear the physician's name, license number, and contact information.

It is essential to note that the medical exemption statement must be retained in the vehicle at all times and must be presented to law enforcement officials upon their request. This ensures that drivers can provide concrete evidence that they have a legitimate medical need for tinted windows, thereby avoiding potential legal repercussions for violating state tinting regulations.

It is worth mentioning that to comply with State Law, TRC 547.613, Section 4.20.35 in the vehicle safety inspection handbook has been updated to simplify the process by which a vehicle owner can obtain a safety inspection if the vehicle has window tint in violation. This amendment has been introduced to streamline the process and mitigate any inconvenience caused to vehicle owners by the new regulatory framework.

The Rules And Regulations Manual For Official Vehicle Inspection Stations And Certified Inspectors Is Revised As Follows:

Medical Waiver Section 4.20.35

The inspector may waive the above standards and pass a vehicle that would otherwise fail inspection due to window tint if the owner produces paperwork from a

physician stating that they need to be shaded from the sun. Such material should be documented in the inspection database, not kept or copied.

The vehicle's front side windows and upper windshield may be darker (top 5 inches or above the AS-1 line, whichever is less). The front windshield may not have a sun screening device below 5 inches or the AS-1 line, whichever is less.

The inspector shall inform the vehicle owner that passing the inspection based on paragraph (a) paperwork does not prevent prosecution under Transportation Code Section 547.613 or prove the vehicle owner's medical condition. Law enforcement and courts will decide if the car owner violated Section 547.613.

Essential Things to Note About Window Tinting

It is also important to note that even if a vehicle complies with the state law in which it is registered, the driver may still be issued a citation for window tinting if it is determined that the tinting is causing a safety hazard. This applies to scenarios where the tinting makes it difficult for the driver to see, and the tinting makes it difficult for other drivers to see the vehicle.

Furthermore, while the laws regarding window tinting in Texas are the same throughout the state, local municipalities may have additional regulations. This is something that should be kept in mind. Therefore, it is essential to check with your local government to make sure that your vehicle complies with all of the laws and regulations that are in effect.

Conclusion

In conclusion, understanding the Texas Window Tint Law for 2023 is crucial for all drivers in the state. By following the regulations set forth in the law, drivers can ensure the safety of themselves and others on the road while avoiding costly fines and penalties. From the legal limits on tinted windows to the specifics on labeling requirements, this comprehensive guide provides all the necessary information to ensure compliance with the law. It is important to note that violating the Texas Window Tint Law may not only result in fines and penalties but could also lead to additional expenses, such as attorney fees. Therefore, it is in every driver's best interest to stay informed and follow the Texas Window Tint Law in 2023 and beyond. Stay safe on the road and prioritize compliance with the law to avoid any potential legal consequences and associated costs.

FAQ

Is Ceramic Tint Legal In Texas?

Ceramic tint is becoming a popular option for car owners in Texas, as it offers several advantages over traditional window tint films. However, many drivers may be wondering whether ceramic tint is legal Texas. The short answer is yes, ceramic tint is legal in Texas as long as it complies with the state's tinting laws. The state allows a certain level of visible light transmission (VLT) for front and rear windows, and the tint must also meet specific requirements for reflectivity. As long as the ceramic tint meets these requirements, it is considered legal in Texas. However, it's essential to check with local authorities to ensure compliance with any additional regulations that may apply in your area.

Is Windshield Tint Legal In Texas

Windshield tinting is legal in Texas as long as it meets the state's requirements. It's always a good idea to check the current regulations before installing any type of window tinting. In Texas, the law allows for a certain level of tinting on car windows, including the windshield. The windshield can have a tinted strip at the top that does not extend below five inches from the top of the windshield, or down past the AS-1 line, whichever is longer. The AS-1 line is a marking on the windshield that indicates the maximum allowable tinting.

What Is Legal Tint In Texas?

In Texas, legal tint limit for cars varies by window, but generally, it's 25% for front side windows, and a tinted strip at the top of the windshield that doesn't extend down past the AS-1 line or below five inches from the top of the windshield, whichever is longer.

The darkest legal tint for the front side windows is 25%. The back side windows and the rear window can be tinted to any degree, but they must have side mirrors if the tinting reduces visibility.