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Avis e-Toll is offered in the Northeast (from Maine to North Carolina), California, Chicago Area, Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Puerto Rico. Cashless Tolls - Canada Please be aware of roads that may be "cashless tolls" and drivers on these roads are not able to pay cash once they have entered these roads. You automatically opt into our e-Toll service program and will be charged $17.00 plus GST/HST per rental, plus incurred kilometer charges and video tolls at the maximum prevailing rates posted by the toll authority. The charges may take 4-8 weeks after the rental to be billed to your billing account or credit card/debit card on file. Northeast (Maine to North Carolina and Chicago Areas): Toll payments are not included in base rental car fees. Where possible, renters are welcome to pay for tolls with cash or credit card. Any automated toll fees are charged to the car and reported to Avis. Avis then determines who the renter was at the time of each toll and bills them for the associated tolls along with a convenience fee as part of the Avis e-Toll service. Renters have the option to choose Avis e-Toll Unlimited service when they book their rental. This service covers the cost of any tolls plus the convenience fee in one daily rate. Payment options for toll roads vary from place to place. Typical options include using an electronic transponder, online registration of the vehicle’s license plate, or direct cash or card payment at toll booths. Some toll roads do not have payment booths. These cashless tolls track which vehicles drive through them, and the driver is responsible for paying the tolls after using the road. Avis renters who drive on cashless toll roads automatically enroll in the Avis e-Toll service to cover toll fees. Yes, you can use your own toll tag on a rental car if you have one. To ensure no additional charges are incurred, please keep any Avis-issued E-toll device stored away. You’ll need to register the rental car’s license plate with your toll tag. When you’re done, don’t forget to remove the rental car license plate from your toll tag registration. Avis toll road fees vary by state. Click on the state where you’ll be renting to see its toll rates. Avis offers two forms of e-toll service: Avis e-Toll and Avis e-Toll Unlimited. The price of Avis e-Toll includes a base fee that is charged only on days when toll roads are used, plus the price of the tolls. Avis e-Toll Unlimited includes a daily flat fee that is charged for every day of a rental period, but this flat fee covers all accrued tolls. Renters must choose Avis e-Toll Unlimited before they begin their rental period. All Avis vehicles are equipped for electronic toll payment. If you want to add Avis e-Toll Unlimited to your rental when you reserve online, you can do so after you select your car type. You may see a prompt that says “There may be tolls along the way” where you can opt to have Avis cover your tolls for a daily fee. Alternatively, you may find e-Tolls under the “Service” section of Recommended Extras. We do not provide the toll authorities with card details or private information of our customers. Instead, we make it more convenient by charging your card directly based on the information provided by the toll authorities. If you have any questions about the tolls themselves, or wish to dispute the charges, your questions are best directed to the toll authority. Don't forget to review the terms and conditions when you book, which include everything you need to know ahead of your journey. Planning a trip? Start your journey. Already planned a trip? Check your booking. When you rent an Avis vehicle, you can travel on any toll road in Australia thanks to our partner Linkt. We have set up a simple process to ensure that payments are smooth and easy to track – without you needing to do anything. Linkt Rental Account: How does it work? When you travel on a toll road, a Linkt Rental Account will automatically be set-up in your name, using the information you provided to Avis when booking and signing your rental agreement. Linkt Sydney will charge you directly the cost of the toll trips you make to the credit or debit card you provided to Avis, plus a $3.30 fee for each day that you use a toll road. You will receive an email or SMS from Linkt about your Linkt Rental Account and with information on how to access it. You can log into this account at any time to track your trips, access your payment details or access your Linkt statement. It can take approximately 3 to 5 days (up to a maximum of 14 days) from your first trip on a toll road for your Linkt Rental Account to be created. Each Linkt Rental Account will cover only one Avis vehicle and rental period. Once payment has been processed for your toll trips, Linkt will automatically close the account. if you have hired your vehicle for longer than 10 days, some trips may not be included in your initial statement. These will appear on your next statement which should be generated 30 days later. You can find out more about a Linked Rental Account here. For more information, read their terms and conditions. Linkt Commercial Rental Accounts: How does it work? A Linkt Commercial Rental Account will be set up for you using the details you provided to Avis. Corporate customers will receive a one-off email or SMS from Linkt containing account details. This will be sent after the first time one of your employees travels on a toll road. Linkt will charge the cost of the toll trips they make to the Linkt Commercial Rental Account, plus a $3.30 fee for each day that they use a toll road. Log into your account using the details sent by Linkt to track your trips, access payment details and download your invoice history. If you haven’t received an email or SMS from Linkt, or can’t access the login details, have your rental account number ready and the Linkt team will be able to assist you. Your monthly invoice has a payslip with available payment options. If you would like to set up auto payments from a credit or debit, you can log in online to set up and edit details at any time. The Linkt Commercial Rental Account covers toll road trips taken by your employees in rental vehicles linked to your rental account only, but does not cover your company or business’ fleet. Toll road travel taken by company vehicles are covered by your existing Linkt Commercial Account, if you have one and if you’ve added the vehicles to your account. Avis has an arrangement with Linkt enabling you to use a Linkt Commercial Rental Account. For more information, read their terms and conditions. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS For more information on the Linkt tolling program please refer to our tolling FAQ here. 630 posts 73 helpful votes Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago We have a rental car booked with Avis. I see we need to handle toll charges, but not sure how to proceed. Do we pay them for their transponder, or can we buy our own? We plan on driving to various beaches during our stay. We appreciate all your valuable input! Thank you! 2,194 posts 1 helpful vote 1. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago I would bring a roll of quarters and another $20 in singles. Some will disagree, they will chime in shortly. Edited: 4 years ago 11,643 posts 10 helpful votes 2. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago The above post may work out perfectly for you, however without knowing your specific plans, hard to tell you more. Avis charges $3.95 fee per rental day, plus tolls ($20 max) and they don't use a transponder, it is toll by plate. Cash works, if you only have limited trips on roads with tolls, like some basically just use the toll roads to get from airport to hotel and back at the end of the trip. However, there are now completely cashless roads and exits popping up in Central Florida, as they have had in South Florida for a while. Granted, they are not as numerous, but if you hit even one of those, I think you will be automatically dinged for the full rental period. Best thing is to consult the toll calculator here to figure out your trip costs. For example, I-4 does not have tolls, so trips from much of tourist area to Daytona will have no toll, but a trip to Cocoa Beach will (unless you take state highways/streets). You can buy a transponder (e-Pass is a better deal than SunPass), but honestly if you don't think you can get buy just using cash, might as well simplify it and just use Avis' option. There was, at one time, a visitor toll pass that you sort of "rented" at the airport, not sure if that option is still available Edited: 4 years ago 4,012 posts 41 helpful votes 3. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago The visitor toll pass is still temporary suspended. It has been 18 months since we last rented a Avis car from MCO, but then there was a transponder fitted, near the rear view mirror, which you could turn on/off. We used the visitor toll pass. 11,643 posts 10 helpful votes 4. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago Interesting Welshjock, I thought Avis was one of the ones to use toll by plate only, so no transponder. If that is the case, then not sure what happens if you turn off and then go through a toll. I assume, it would trigger a toll by plate charge sent to Avis and then eventually passed onto the renter. 4,012 posts 41 helpful votes 5. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago I have used another 3rd party Toll system, which didn’t work correctly, and did receive a bill from Avis for going through a toll with the transponder off. (Paytollo) I have also down the opposite, inadvertently turning the transponder on and going through a cash lane, but luckily the operator told me I had already been charged. Edited: 4 years ago 11,643 posts 10 helpful votes 6. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago Living here, I have a little irritation that happens occasionally. Every once in a while, for what ever reason, my transponder doesn't register. Not sure of the cause, it's in the same spot on the windshield it has been for many years and the error will be a toll, I pass every day. Then a month or so later I get a notice in the mail for a pay by plate toll with the additional fee. Seems stupid since they have my license, why don't they cross-check and charge to my e-pass account? Seems like less effort than looking up my info, creating, and mailing me a bill. Never mind the fact that I am using *their* transponder and going through *their* scanner (one of which malfunctioned), yet *I* am responsible for a handling fee. Edited: 4 years ago 989 posts 108 helpful votes 7. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago The easiest thing to do is just take the PlatePass system from Avis, and don't worry about it. So many bigger things to worry about than $5 a day in tolls. 19,774 posts 6 helpful votes 8. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago Where are you staying and what roads are you using? The mainline tolls on 528 take cash. Having said that, I would much, much, much prefer having a transponder (and I do) to zip through the Sunpass lane at full speed rather than stop and wait in line at least three times each way. 630 posts 73 helpful votes 9. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago We are staying on International drive, but plan on driving to both coasts for beach time during our week stay, as well as just general driving around. 19,774 posts 6 helpful votes 10. Re: Help please with Tolls & Avis Rental Car 4 years ago From I-Drive to Cocoa Beach, you can use the cash lanes on 528 and wait in line or get the transponder, either one. There are not any tolls on I-4 going toward Tampa. I think the Pinellas Bayway still takes cash if going to St Pete Beach. The cashless tolls in Tampa are the Selmon and the Veterans. You probably won't use those roads. "General driving around" - there are numerous toll roads in Orlando, some with exact change exits. The Wekiva Parkway is cashless as are parts of the Turnpike. Ready to rent an Avis car but worried about getting slammed with surprise toll charges? Trust me, you’re not alone. I’ve been there – picking up my rental, cruising down the highway, and then BAM! A credit card bill weeks later that made my wallet cry.Here’s the deal: Avis charges $3.95 to $6.95 per day for their e-Toll service, plus the actual toll costs at the highest rates. But don’t panic just yet. I’m going to break down everything you need to know about Avis toll charges so you can hit the road without any nasty surprises.Let’s start with the basics. Avis automatically enrolls you in their e-Toll system the moment you drive through an electronic toll without paying directly. Yep, you read that right – no signature required, no explicit agreement. Just drive through a toll plaza without cash or your own transponder, and boom, you’re in their system.Most Avis vehicles come equipped with a toll transponder hidden in a little box on your windshield. Think of it as a sneaky little device that’s just waiting to spring into action. However, even if you somehow avoid using their transponder, they’ve got backup plans. License plate capture technology tracks your vehicle and bills you anyway.Pretty clever, right? Or should I say… pretty expensive? ☹Here’s where things get interesting (and by interesting, I mean potentially wallet-draining). Avis doesn’t just charge you for the tolls – they add their own “convenience fees” on top.Standard e-Toll Fees by Region:Most US locations: $3.95 per day of your entire rental period (not just toll days)California: $6.95 per day you actually use tollsTexas: $5.95 per day you actually use tollsPlus the actual toll costs at the highest possible ratesNotice the difference? In most places, if you use a toll on day one of a seven-day rental, you’ll pay that daily fee for all seven days. Meanwhile, California and Texas only charge you for the days you actually hit the tolls. Go figure!RegionStandard e-Toll Daily Convenience FeeMax Convenience Fee (Standard)Notes / SpecificsGeneral US (Most Locations)$3.95 per day of rental period$19.75 per rental monthPlus highest toll rates. Fee applies to all days of rental if any toll is used.California$6.95 per day of toll use$34.95 per rental periodPlus highest toll rates. Some Avis/Budget cars may have FasTrak transponders for a nominal fee.Texas$5.95 per day of toll use$29.75 per rental periodPlus highest toll rates.Northeast (ME–NC, Chicago)$3.95 per day of rental period$19.75 per rental monthPlus tolls at cash rate. Fee applies to all days of rental if any toll is used.If e-Toll Unlimited Declined but Tolls Used via Avis System$6.95 administrative fee per day of toll use$34.75 per rental monthPlus highest toll rates. Applies if other payment methods fail or are not used after declining the Unlimited plan.Now, Avis also offers something called e-Toll Unlimited – their “all-you-can-toll” buffet option. For a flat daily or weekly rate (typically $12.99-$20+ per day), you can cruise through as many toll roads as your heart desires.But here’s the catch – and there’s always a catch, isn’t there? You must purchase this service at the rental counter or add it to your online reservation before you pick up the car. No backsies, no adding it mid-trip when you realize you’re going to be toll-hopping all week.FeatureAvis e-Toll (Standard)Avis e-Toll UnlimitedDIY/Opt-Out (Personal Transponder/Cash/Direct Payment)ActivationAutomatic upon electronic toll use without alternative paymentPurchase at counter/online pre-rentalRenter’s proactive steps (e.g., using own device, paying cash)Convenience Fee Structure$3.95-$6.95 daily (see regional specifics), charged per rental day or usage dayFlat daily/weekly rate, varies by regionNone from AvisMax Convenience Fee Cap$19.75-$34.95 monthly/per rental (varies by region)Included in flat rateN/AActual Toll Rate BasisHighest undiscounted/cash rateIncluded in flat rate (for covered tolls)Typically discounted transponder rate or cash rateBillingAvis (via toll administrator) bills credit card 4-8 weeks laterOn rental agreement or Avis bills laterDirect from personal transponder account or paid at tollBest ForUnplanned/infrequent toll use IF alternatives not set up (often costly)Frequent/heavy toll use, budget predictabilityCost-conscious, prepared rentersKey ConsiderationsHigh cost for minimal use due to “entire rental period” fee in some plans; highest toll ratesUpfront cost; crucial coverage exclusionsRequires renter action; cash not always an option; transponder setup neededHonestly? e-Toll Unlimited can be a decent deal if you’re planning to use multiple toll roads daily. I’m talking about scenarios like:Road-tripping through Florida’s extensive toll networkNavigating the Northeast’s E-ZPass mazeCommuting daily on toll roads during a longer rentalQuick math check: If you’re facing $6.95 daily convenience fees plus multiple tolls at premium rates, and the Unlimited option costs $15 per day, it might actually save you money. Plus, you get that peace of mind that comes with knowing your exact toll budget upfront.Here’s where e-Toll Unlimited gets a bit sneaky. It doesn’t cover everywhere. States like Alabama, Alaska, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Oregon, South Carolina, and Utah? Nope, not included.Even worse, newer charging zones like NYC’s Congestion Relief Zone (started January 5, 2025) are specifically excluded. So if you’re planning to drive into Manhattan, you’ll need to handle that charge separately. Fun times!Alright, let’s talk about how to outsmart these fees. Because honestly, why pay extra when you don’t have to?This is my personal favorite hack. If you already have an E-ZPass, SunPass, or FasTrak transponder, you can use it in your Avis rental. Here’s the step-by-step:Find that little transponder box on your rental car’s windshieldMake sure it’s closed (this deactivates Avis’s device)Add your rental car’s license plate to your personal transponder account onlineMount your transponder according to your provider’s instructionsRemove the rental plate from your account after returning the carPro tip: Take a photo of the closed transponder box for your records. Trust me, it might come in handy if there are any billing disputes later.Old school, but it works! Cash payments completely bypass Avis’s toll system. Just make sure you’re in the right lanes and keep those receipts.However, and this is a big however, more toll roads are going cashless every year. So this strategy is becoming less viable, especially in places like the Northeast where electronic-only tolling is the norm.Some areas let you register your rental car directly with their toll system. California’s Toll Roads (SR 73, 133, 241, 261) offer this option – you can add your rental car’s plate to their system and pay tolls directly to your credit card, skipping Avis entirely.Similarly, you can make one-time payments for bridges like the Golden Gate Bridge within 48 hours of crossing. Pretty convenient, actually.Different regions, different rules. It’s like toll road roulette, but with your money on the line.California has some unique quirks. Some Avis locations actually provide FasTrak transponders for a small fee – definitely ask about this at the counter. Plus, remember that California charges $6.95 only for days you use tolls, not your entire rental period.For the Golden Gate Bridge specifically, you can avoid Avis fees by making a one-time payment online at bayareafastrak.org within 48 hours of crossing.The Northeast is basically E-ZPass central. With so many cashless toll roads, having your own E-ZPass is almost essential if you want to avoid Avis’s fees. The region follows the “charge for entire rental period” model, so even one toll can trigger daily fees for your whole trip.Heads up: NYC’s new Congestion Relief Zone charges started by January 5, 2025. This $9-$23 fee for driving into parts of Manhattan likely won’t be covered by e-Toll Unlimited, so plan accordingly.Florida’s toll roads are everywhere, making it a prime candidate for e-Toll Unlimited if you’re doing serious road-tripping. SunPass transponders work with E-ZPass and other systems, so your existing transponder might work just fine.Just remember: If you decline e-Toll Unlimited but still use tolls without an alternative payment method, you could face that higher $6.95 administrative fee per day instead of the standard convenience fee.Let’s be real – sometimes the system messes up. I’ve heard horror stories of people being charged for tolls on roads they never drove, or getting hit with fees weeks after their rental ended.Phantom tolls for roads you didn’t useDouble billing when you used your own transponder correctlyFees for your entire rental period when you only used tolls onceDelayed billing appearing 4-8 weeks laterFirst, get your itemized toll receipt from avis.e-tolls.com using your rental agreement number. This shows exactly what they’re charging you for.If you spot errors, contact Highway Toll Administration (HTA) LLC first – they’re usually Avis’s toll administrator. Their contact info should be on your toll bill. Keep all your documentation: rental agreement, receipts, personal transponder statements, even GPS records if you need to prove you weren’t somewhere.Still no luck? Contact Avis customer service at 1-800-352-7900. As a last resort, you can dispute the charges with your credit card company if you have solid evidence of billing errors.Before you grab those keys and hit the road, run through this quick checklist:Pre-Rental:Research tolls on your planned routeDecide your payment strategyIf using your own transponder, add the rental plate to your accountAt Pickup:Tell the agent your toll payment planDecline e-Toll Unlimited if you don’t want itCheck that the transponder box is closed (if using your own device)Snap a photo of the license plate and closed boxDuring Your Trip:Keep toll receipts if paying cashMonitor that your personal transponder is workingAfter Return:Remove the rental plate from your transponder accountKeep all documentationWatch your credit card statements for 4-8 weeksLook, Avis’s toll programs aren’t inherently evil – they’re just expensive convenience services. The key is understanding your options and making informed choices based on your specific travel needs.For light toll users, bringing your own transponder or paying cash (where possible) will save you the most money. For heavy toll users, e-Toll Unlimited might actually be worth it, especially if you value budget predictability over potential savings.Whatever you choose, just don’t go in blind. A little preparation can save you from those credit card statement surprises that nobody wants to deal with. Trust me, your future self will thank you when you’re not calling customer service to dispute mystery toll charges! Remember: the best toll strategy is the one you plan ahead of time. Happy travels!For the most current Avis toll policies and rates, check Avis’s official e-Toll page before your rental.Pavithra Vinoth is the founder of nytollsinfo.com, where she simplifies U.S. toll systems through expert insights and custom-built calculators. Her research-driven tools help drivers avoid costly mistakes and make smarter car decisions. When he crossed the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge in Northern California, James Kaiser expected Avis to bill him for the $5 toll. It did, then it added a convenience fee — of $19.75. “I had no idea I’d be charged that much,” says Kaiser, a photographer and guidebook author who had been on assignment in Yosemite National Park. “No one explained how the system worked.” He wonders where all the money is going. It turns out that there are a lot of motorists like him who are also looking for answers. They recently got one, courtesy of suits and countersuits between BancPass and Highway Toll Administration (HTA). In case you’re just tuning in, BancPass makes a smartphone app for paying tolls; HTA is a company that offers electronic toll-payment services for several large car-rental companies. BancPass claims HTA interfered with its business when it pressured Apple and Google to remove PToll from its app stores in 2014. Court documents suggest that car-rental customers pay millions in fees every year. David Centner, HTA’s chief executive, says that most of the money collected covers tolls, not fees. Even so, the courtroom revelations bring up an important question: How do you avoid these fees the next time you rent a car? Public court filings and statements made in open court by HTA’s lawyers indicate that the fees beyond actual tolls collected by car-rental companies could be as high as $250 million annually. At least half of that goes directly to the companies. That’s the conclusion of Glenn Deitiker, president of BancPass, who said he believes tolls and the related fees are a massive profit center for car-rental companies. “That is why the car-rental industry came down so hard on us,” he said. Centner, however, says that HTA “is not making hundreds of millions of dollars on this program.” Faye Travel Insurance provides whole-trip travel coverage and care that brings out the best in each journey with industry-leading technology that enables smarter, faster, smoother assistance and claims resolutions. Our robust travel insurance covers your health, your trip, your stuff, and even your pet, via an app that provides real-time proactive solutions, quick reimbursements and 24/7 support from anywhere in the world. Wherever you go, we’re there too, taking care of the details so you can make the most of each moment, with the only travel protection that is by your side and on your side every step of the way. Avis explains the system Kaiser encountered, called e-Toll, as an electronic toll-collection program that “makes road travel more convenient.” The transponders, which come preinstalled in vehicles that are used where toll roads are common, offer an optional way to pay for tolls, according to the company. Kaiser could have paid his bridge toll in cash and avoided the fees — but if a camera caught a glimpse of his plate in a noncash lane, then he would have automatically enrolled himself in the program. And the program is not cheap. Avis charges a convenience fee of $3.95 for each day of the entire rental period, including any days on which e-Toll is not used, up to a maximum of $19.75 per rental month, plus any tolls at the maximum prevailing rates posted by the toll authority. When Jen Coken rented a car from Enterprise in Rockville, Md., recently, she asked if she could also rent a toll transponder. “They told me to just go through the tolls and they will bill me later,” recalls Coken, a voice-over actor who lives in Rockville. “What they didn’t share was that they would be charging me an extra fee on top of the tolls.” Coken’s bill shows that Enterprise charged her $3.95 per transponder usage day plus the amount of the tolls. When she called the company to complain about the charges, it promptly refunded them. “Ms. Coken, when she initially rented the vehicle, either got some bad information from a very confused employee or she misunderstood how the program works,” says Laura Bryant, an Enterprise spokeswoman. “Our program was never set up to do anything more than just break even. Just the opposite: We, along with the rest of the car-rental industry, have had to figure out how to help frustrated customers when manned toll booths went away.” She’s right. As the number of toll roads multiplied, rental-car companies found it increasingly difficult to bill customers for the toll penalties they incurred while driving rental vehicles. Years ago, before electronic tolling, it wasn’t uncommon to see toll bills with processing fees that exceeded the cost of the rental cars. The reason? Each bill had to be manually matched to the renter, a time-consuming process. For example, Hertz charges $4.95 per day for PlatePass, its electronic tolling product, up to a maximum of $24.75 per rental, but it keeps charging you by the day even if you don’t incur a toll. If you don’t opt in to Sixt’s proprietary tolling program (rates vary by state). And if you do not pay tolls with cash or a credit card. You are automatically enrolled in its pay-per-use program. This program charges the cost of the toll plus a $5 administration fee per toll. Whether these tolling systems are a source of profits or not, one thing is clear: They’re pretty confusing. Consider what happened to Harvey Moshman, a television producer from Chicago, when he recently rented a car from Advantage in Orlando. It charges $7 per day for Pay-By-Plate, its tolling program. “Pay-By-Plate is not explained to you at the counter,” he says. “On the rental agreement, it states that any manned or unmanned toll that you violate during the rental period will result in a $25 administrative fee per toll violation. To me, violate means willfully deciding not to pay — to blow through a tollbooth.” Rather, he used toll roads that didn’t have any booths. He didn’t realize that doing so without a payment device would incur a penalty. “There was no opportunity to pay,” he says. Total damage: $77.38 for three tolls. Advantage may not have told him about the fees verbally, but his rental agreement and the company website are clear. Advantage promotes its system as one that offers “speed and convenience” for customers. They explain that drivers will pay the cash or pay-by-mail toll rate as published by the toll authority. This payment will be whichever is higher, along with a service fee per rental day or a maximum monthly fee. The fees vary by location. Is there a better way? Certainly, having an app or another way of settling your toll could help consumers. It’s hard to imagine HTA fighting a company like BancPass unless a lot of money is at stake. Hundreds of millions of dollars a year, maybe. In the meantime, if you’re renting a car, consider using a bridge, tunnel, or toll road. Make sure you study the rental agreement carefully. If you’re not sure of the fees, choose an alternate route — just to be safe. If you already find yourself in this exact dilemma, contact my advocacy team. Loading ... Skip to content It is standard that the charge for tolls arrives a few weeks following the end of your rental, as we must wait for the charge details to be provided by the toll authorities. The charge is usually taken in one payment but multiple charges/receipts are also possible based upon the location and duration of the rental. Don't forget to review the terms and conditions when you book, which include everything you need to know ahead of your journey. Planning a trip? Start your journey. Already planned a trip? Check your booking. You meticulously planned your vacation budget. You found a great deal on a rental car, declining the insurance because your travel rewards credit card offers primary coverage. You found a gas station to refill the vehicle before returning it to avoid surcharges. And you returned the car without incurring any damages. You think this chapter of your travels is over until you see—surprise!—a new charge for road tolls from the rental car company on your credit card statement a month later. The unwelcome surprise of rental car toll charges is all too common, which makes knowing the rental car company's policy relating to tolls and your options for making toll payments before you hit the road that much more essential. Here’s how tolls work with rental cars from four of the biggest rental car companies—and what you can do to avoid paying more than you have to. How tolls work Most modern rental cars are equipped with a toll transponder affixed to the top center of the windshield. This device allows drivers to pass through E-ZPass or similarly branded cashless toll lanes, with the rental car company accepting the toll fees on your behalf. It could take weeks or longer for toll road operators to notify the rental car company of the tolls you racked up with your rental car and for the rental car company to turn around and bill you for those tolls. So, if you opt into a toll billing program when booking your rental, expect the rental car company to pass along those toll charges to you in the form of a bill that you could receive weeks after your trip ends. Each rental car company has its own policies, so look into those policies before you sign on the dotted line. Here’s how four of the major rental car companies handle tolls. Avis Avis offers two billing programs for toll roads in the U.S.: Avis e-Toll and Avis e-Toll Unlimited. Avis e-Toll is a direct bill program in which the actual toll costs are passed along to the renter. Avis adds a convenience fee of $6.95 for each day you incur a toll. While the fee is capped at $34.75 per rental month, you will be charged for the tolls at their highest rate, not the discounted rate typically offered to cashless payers. Avis e-Toll is available in the Northeast, from Maine to North Carolina, as well as in California, Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington, Puerto Rico and the Chicago area. Under the Avis e-Toll Unlimited program, you'll pay a daily fee during your rental, regardless of whether you incur any actual toll charges. However, when you do use a toll road, the actual toll costs will not be directly passed on to you. The convenience fee for this program may vary by rental location and tolling region. Hertz Hertz also offers an unlimited program called Hertz PlatePass All-Inclusive Tolling. It operates like Avis' unlimited program, with a daily fee of around $18.99. If you don't opt into Hertz PlatePass but use a toll road, you'll be charged a $9.99 daily convenience fee, and the undiscounted toll charge will be passed on to you. PlatePass is available in 25 states but may not be available at all Hertz rental locations. Enterprise Enterprise, the world's largest rental car company, handles tolls using a direct bill method plus a convenience fee. The fees for its TollPass Service vary based on the rental state and whether the location is airport-based. (Check out the TollPass Coverage Map to ensure it applies to where you’ll be traveling.) Most daily fees range from $3.95 to $4.95 and are capped at $30 per rental period. Note that renters in Chicago, however, will pay more. Airport renters and those at select downtown Chicago locations can be charged up to $11.99 daily. In contrast, most non-airport locations in Chicago charge $10.99 daily. Sixt A German rental car company, Sixt has been making major inroads in the rental car market here in the U.S. Sixt’s prepaid toll program, called Express Tolls Unlimited, also offers an unlimited toll plan for $12.99 per day. Like its competitors, Sixt adds this fee for each day of your rental regardless of toll activity. Drive without this package, and you’ll pay actual toll costs plus an administrative fee of $9.99 per usage day, up to a maximum amount of $90 per rental agreement. Member Benefit Save up to 20% on the base rate of Hertz rentals everyday as a AAA Member and enjoy exclusive member benefits. Learn More Easy ways to save on tolls Now that you know how tolls work with rental cars, here’s how to save money when using toll roads when driving a rental. 1. BYOT: Bring Your Own Transponder If you already have a transponder for your car at home, can you bring it with you and use it on your rental car? Yes, you can. Consider packing your transponder to avoid paying daily convenience fees on top of the toll prices and to access discounted cashless toll prices. Just take it out of your personal car and affix it to the rental car near the rearview mirror on the inside of the front windshield, below any tinting. Additionally, ensure that the rental car's transponder is covered, usually by a sliding cover, so that the toll booth reads your personal transponder, not the rental car’s existing device. You'll also need to go to the website where you manage your transponder and register the rental car details. According to Ohio's E-ZPass rules, for example, "all vehicles should be added to your account while in use to avoid any violations." Be sure to remove rental vehicles from your account when your trip ends, too, because you are responsible for tolls until you delete the car from your profile. If you’d like to obtain a personal transponder before your trip, you can pick one up in person at select locations or order one online from a participating state. Also, check to make sure that your transponder will work in those states where you’ll be traveling. E-ZPass, for example, is interoperable on a trip from Maine to Florida, considered E-ZPass states. 2. Pay in Cash You can also use cash to avoid rental car toll charges, but with many states modernizing their systems, not all toll booths offer a cash option. Research the route you plan to take to see what payment options are accepted. If you’re self-paying, ensure that the rental car's transponder is covered. 3. Calculate the Unlimited Toll Option If you plan to drive extensively on toll roads with your rental car, calculate the tolls you will incur ahead of time. Google Maps is a great resource when planning your trip as the software identifies which part of your journey is on a toll road and gives you an estimated cost. Add up the costs Google calculated, and compare them to the car rental company's unlimited toll option. Remember, you'll pay the unlimited toll fee every day of your rental, even if you don't use toll roads on particular days. You may save money on short rental periods and interstate, one-way rentals by opting into the unlimited toll program offered by your rental car company. For example, Google estimates a one-way drive from Cleveland to Chicago will cost $31.95 in tolls. This would make an unlimited program a great deal, but only if you're renting just for the one-day drive. The unlimited program will cost you more if you plan to keep the car longer. You can use the toll calculator on some state websites as an alternative to Google. This will be particularly useful if you drive a nontraditional vehicle that is subject to higher toll rates. For example, Ohio's Fare Calculator will quote you the cash and cashless fare prices determined by vehicle class and your entrance and exit locations. 4. Avoid Toll Roads While easier in some states than others, you can always set navigation apps to avoid toll roads when providing directions. Considering that time can be money, also compare the time that an alternative route would take, as it may be longer or on a more congested roadway, which could significantly increase your drive time and fuel costs. The key is to plan for your rental car toll charges to help you save money, avoid headaches and prevent any gotcha toll bills from arriving weeks after your trip ends. Prices noted in this article were accurate at the time of original publication. Avis e-Toll is offered in the Northeast (from Maine to North Carolina), California, Chicago Area, Colorado, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Washington and Puerto Rico. Cashless Tolls - Canada Please be aware of roads that may be "cashless tolls" and drivers on these roads are not able to pay cash once they have entered these roads. You automatically opt into our e-Toll service program and will be charged $17.00 plus GST/HST per rental, plus incurred kilometer charges and video tolls at the maximum prevailing rates posted by the toll authority. The charges may take 4-8 weeks after the rental to be billed to your billing account or credit card/debit card on file. Northeast (Maine to North Carolina and Chicago Areas): Toll payments are not included in base rental car fees. Where possible, renters are welcome to pay for tolls with cash or credit card. Any automated toll fees are charged to the car and reported to Avis. Avis then determines who the renter was at the time of each toll and bills them for the associated tolls along with a convenience fee as part of the Avis e-Toll service. Renters have the option to choose Avis e-Toll Unlimited service when they book their rental. This service covers the cost of any tolls plus the convenience fee in one daily rate. Payment options for toll roads vary from place to place. Typical options include using an electronic transponder, online registration of the vehicle’s license plate, or direct cash or card payment at toll booths. Some toll roads do not have payment booths. These cashless tolls track which vehicles drive through them, and the driver is responsible for paying the tolls after using the road. Avis renters who drive on cashless toll roads automatically enroll in the Avis e-Toll service to cover toll fees. Yes, you can use your own toll tag on a rental car if you have one. To ensure no additional charges are incurred, please keep any Avis-issued E-toll device stored away. You’ll need to register the rental car’s license plate with your toll tag. When you’re done, don’t forget to remove the rental car license plate from your toll tag registration. Avis toll road fees vary by state. Click on the state where you’ll be renting to see its toll rates. Avis offers two forms of e-toll service: Avis e-Toll and Avis e-Toll Unlimited. The price of Avis e-Toll includes a base fee that is charged only on days when toll roads are used, plus the price of the tolls. Avis e-Toll Unlimited includes a daily flat fee that is charged for every day of a rental period, but this flat fee covers all accrued tolls. Renters must choose Avis e-Toll Unlimited before they begin their rental period. All Avis vehicles are equipped for electronic toll payment. If you want to add Avis e-Toll Unlimited to your rental when you reserve online, you can do so after you select your car type. You may see a prompt that says “There may be tolls along the way” where you can opt to have Avis cover your tolls for a daily fee. Alternatively, you may find e-Tolls under the “Service” section of Recommended Extras. The credit card on file will be charged the cost of each incurred toll at the toll authority’s highest undiscounted toll rate PLUS an administrative fee of $6.95 per calendar day when tolls are incurred ($34.75 maximum administrative fee per rental month).