

2008 St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax Holiday

The St. John the Baptist Parish School Board, Parish Counsel, and Sheriff Wayne Jones have adopted a local Sales Tax Holiday abating the parish sales and use tax on consumer purchases of tangible personal property from certain selling dealers with restrictions on the types and cost of purchases that are eligible for abatement for the period Friday, August 1, 2008, through Saturday, August 2, 2008.

The St. John the Baptist Parish Sales Tax Holiday provides an exemption from local sales tax on the first \$2,500 of the purchase price of most individual purchases of tangible personal property for non-business use during the Sales Tax Holiday dates. The local sales tax is payable on the portion of the purchase price of any individual item in excess of \$2,500.

What items are eligible for exemption?

The exemption will apply to all consumer purchases of tangible personal property, other than vehicles subject to license and title and meals furnished for consumption on the premises where purchased, including to-go orders, provided that the property is not for use in a business, trade, or profession.

What items are NOT eligible for exemption?

In addition to the specific exclusions in the Act for vehicles and meals, the local sales tax holiday will not apply to purchases of taxable services (hotel occupancy; amusement, recreational, and athletic admissions; repairs to tangible personal property; laundry, cleaning, pressing, and dyeing services; vehicle parking; the furnishing of cold storage space; printing services; and telecommunication services) or to leases or rentals of tangible personal property.

What are the conditions for exemption?

A customer will be eligible for the sales tax exemption if during the two days of the holiday:

- He/she buys and accepts delivery of eligible property;
- He/she places property on layaway;
- He/she acquires property that was previously placed on layaway; or
- He/she places an order for immediate delivery, even if delivery must be delayed, provided that the customer has not requested delayed shipment.

Are there any special provisions?

- The exemption is allowed on both inputs to and withdrawals from layaway;
- Purchases during the holiday with “rain checks” issued before the two-day holiday are eligible for exemption, but purchases after the holiday with “rain checks” issued during the holiday are not eligible for exemption.
- Orders for immediate shipment are eligible for exemption even if the shipment is after the holiday, provided that the customer does not request delayed shipment.
- The post-holiday exchange of merchandise to effectuate changes in size, color, or correction of defects does not create a tax liability, but exchanges after the holiday for dissimilar items will be considered the purchase of new property on which the sales tax will be payable.
- Items that are normally sold as a unit, such as dining tables and chairs, cannot be individually priced for the purpose of creating a separate eligibility cap for each individual item.
- For a 60-day period after the holiday, dealers who issue refund or credit for the return of merchandise that was eligible for sales tax exemption during the holiday can issue refund or credit for the local sales tax on that returned merchandise only if the customers returning the property have receipts showing that the tax was actually paid on the original purchases, or the dealers are otherwise able to document that the state sales tax was paid on the original purchases.

Retailers should report exempt sales on Line 10 of the St. John the Baptist Parish Sales and Use Tax Return and write the words “Sales Tax Holiday” as the explanation.