Pennsylvania Sales Tax Information

Drexel University is a non-profit educational institution exempt from Pennsylvania sales tax. However, the exemption to which we are entitled, only applies to the purchase of tangible personal property or services that are either used in an activity which bears a reasonable relationship to the purpose for which we exist (i.e. instruction, research or healthcare) or which is a material or supply used in the routine maintenance or repair of real estate used in an activity which bears a reasonable relationship to the purpose for which we exist. All other purchases made by Drexel University are considered taxable.

Examples of Purchases exempt from PA sales tax

A.) Material or supplies used in routine maintenance or repair of real estate:

- Paint
- Paint brushes
- Light bulbs
- Cement for repointing
- Expendable mops or brushes
- floor wax
- carpet shampoos
- replacement window panes
- roofing tar
- patch asphalt

B.) Building Machinery and equipment:

- Air conditioning equipment
- Plumbing equipment
- electrical equipment
- Communications equipment (voice, video, data, sound, master clock and noise abatement)

- Fire equipment
- Security and detection alarms

- Control systems (including energy management, traffic, parking lot and building access)

- Medical systems (including diagnosis, treatment equipment, medical gas, nurse call and doctor paging systems)

- Laboratory systems
- Cabinetry
- boile
- Air cleaners
- fans

- Switchgear
- pumps
Telephones  speakers
Horns  motion detectors
Dampers  actuators
Grills  registers
Traffic signals  sensors
Card access devices  guard-rails
Medial devices  floor troughs and grates
Laundry equipment

C.) Utility services

Fuel oil  petroleum products used in connection with exempt activities
Steam  gas
Electricity  telephone service

Examples of taxable Purchases

A.) Materials, supplies and equipment used and installed in the construction, reconstruction, remodeling, repair or maintenance of real estate which become a permanent part of the structure:

Drywall  studs
Furnace  bricks or building blocks
Light fixtures  wall to wall carpeting
Windows  conduit
Wire  cable
Pipes  fittings
pipe supports and hangars
Guardrail posts
Underground tanks  receptacle boxes
Junction boxes  insulation
Ductwork and coverings

B.) Tools and equipment used for routine maintenance:

Hammers  saws
Lawn mowers  snow blowers
Floor polishers  small tools (screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers, etc)
Corded or cordless Drills  shovels, spades
Off road vehicles (golf carts & ATVs)

We are also not exempt from the hotel occupancy tax on charges for occupancy of hotels, motels and similar establishments.