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The Singapore Car Cost Checklist 2026

Every upfront, ongoing and hidden cost to check before you buy a car.

FORMAT	PDF · A4 · printable checklist
COVERS	COE, ARF, road tax, financing, running costs
PAIRS WITH	Car loan and car cost calculators
SOURCE	LTA / OneMotoring / MAS

Owning a car in Singapore costs far more than the sticker price. This checklist walks through the three layers of cost — upfront, ongoing, and depreciation — so you can work out the true cost per year before you commit.

What a car really costs in Singapore

The sticker price is the smallest decision you will make. A car in Singapore carries three layers of cost — upfront, ongoing, and the cost of the COE running down. Work through every line below before you commit.

Upfront costs — before you drive away

- [ ] COE (Certificate of Entitlement) — the right to own a car for 10 years,

priced by open bidding. Cars fall into Category A (smaller, less powerful) or Category B (larger, more powerful).

- [ ] OMV (Open Market Value) — the customs-assessed base value of the car.
- [ ] ARF (Additional Registration Fee) — a tax tiered on the OMV, subject to a

minimum of $5,000.

- [ ] Excise duty and GST.
- [ ] Vehicle registration fee.
- [ ] Dealer margin, accessories and delivery.
- [ ] Your cash down payment (see financing below).

Financing — know the limits

- [ ] Car loans in Singapore are capped: you can borrow up to 60% of the price

for a car with OMV above $20,000, or up to 70% if the OMV is $20,000 or below.

- [ ] The maximum loan tenure is 7 years.
- [ ] A longer tenure lowers the monthly instalment but raises total interest.

> Confirm the current financing limits with MAS or your bank before you budget — loan rules can change.

Ongoing costs — every year you own it

- [ ] Road tax — charged by engine capacity, paid every 6 or 12 months.
- [ ] Motor insurance — premium depends on the car, your age and your record.
- [ ] Fuel or charging.
- [ ] Parking — season parking at home plus daily parking.
- [ ] ERP and other road charges.
- [ ] Servicing, maintenance, tyres and wear items.
- [ ] Vehicle Emission Scheme (VES) — a surcharge or rebate based on emissions;

a new banding (Bands A, B, C1, C2 and C3) applies from January 2026.

The cost that is easy to forget — depreciation

A Singapore car loses value every year, mostly because its 10-year COE is running down.

- [ ] Depreciation per year is usually the single largest cost of car

ownership — larger than fuel, insurance or maintenance.

- [ ] At the 10-year mark you can deregister the car for a PARF rebate, or

renew the COE to keep driving it.

- [ ] The PARF rebate is capped — the cap is $30,000 for cars registered with

COEs obtained from the second February 2026 bidding exercise onwards.

- [ ] Renewing a COE buys a 5- or 10-year extension, but a COE-renewed car has

no PARF rebate at the end.

How to use this checklist

Add up the upfront costs, estimate the yearly running cost, then divide the expected depreciation across the years you plan to keep the car. That all-in cost per year is the real number. Work it through with the car and loan calculators at *smartcalculator.sg*.

Sources & disclaimer

All figures in this resource were verified in May 2026 against the official Singapore government source named on the cover. Rates, thresholds and policy figures are revised regularly — often each year — so always confirm the current figure and your own eligibility with the relevant agency before acting.

This guide is for general education and reference only. It is not professional, medical, legal or financial advice and does not account for your personal circumstances.

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