

Massachusetts Tax-Free Weekend Covers Flooring and Home Improvement Materials, Not Just School Supplies

Auburn-area shoppers: MA Tax-Free Weekend on Aug 8–9 includes flooring and home improvement materials under \$2,500 per item.

AUBURN, MA, UNITED STATES, July 28, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- When Massachusetts shoppers hear "Tax-Free Weekend," most picture back-to-school laptops and clothing. But under

state law, the annual exemption is not category-specific - it is price-based. Any single tangible retail item priced under \$2,500 qualifies, including flooring, area rugs, cabinets, and window treatments purchased at a retail showroom. This year's event runs August 8–9, 2026.



“

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Mark Chiavelli

How the Massachusetts Tax Exemption Works

Under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 64H, Section 6A, the annual sales tax holiday exempts retail purchases of most tangible personal property when the individual item price is \$2,499.99 or less. The exemption equals the full Massachusetts sales tax rate of 6.25% of the purchase price. In 2025, Massachusetts consumers saved an estimated \$37.7 million in sales tax over the two-day holiday weekend, according to Department of Revenue data - a figure that reflects purchases well beyond the

back-to-school category.

Practical impact of the [tax break](#) on common home improvement purchases:

- Fifteen \$150 boxes of hardwood flooring: \$140.62 in tax savings
- A \$2,200 area rug: \$137.50 in tax savings
- A \$2,499 set of custom window shades: \$156.19 in tax savings

Each item is evaluated independently. A shopper purchasing multiple qualifying items in a single transaction saves on each one.

Why Many Consumers Incorrectly Assume Which Purchases Qualify

A common misconception is that Tax-Free Weekend is limited to back-to-school items like school supplies, electronics, and apparel. In practice, the Massachusetts Department of Revenue applies the exemption broadly to tangible retail goods. A homeowner purchasing flooring materials at a showroom and taking ownership of those goods at the point of sale, is making a qualifying retail transaction, provided each item is priced below the \$2,500 threshold.

What Home Improvement Purchases Qualify for the Massachusetts Sales Tax Exemption?

Under Massachusetts law, these are some of the home improvement purchases that qualify for the sales tax exemption and those that do not:

- Retail purchases of flooring products (carpet, hardwood, laminate, luxury vinyl plank, tile) priced under \$2,500 per item qualify
- Area rugs, window blinds, shades, shutters, and drapery under the threshold qualify
- Cabinet and countertop materials purchased directly at retail, priced under \$2,500 per item qualify
- Any single item priced at \$2,500 or more does not qualify. The entire amount is taxed, not just the excess
- Labor and installation charges do not qualify. The exemption applies to tangible goods only
- Contractor-supplied-and-installed projects billed as a single construction contract do not qualify



Floors & Kitchens Today's Showroom in Auburn



Floors & Kitchens Today in Auburn on Southbridge Street

What if the total purchase exceeds \$2,500?

The \$2,500 threshold applies per item, not per transaction. A homeowner purchasing forty boxes of tile flooring at \$120 each, a \$4,800 total order, pays no sales tax on any box, because each individual item falls below the threshold. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue confirms: "If the price of each individual item is \$2,500 or less, you can combine as many items as you want, tax-free, even if the combined items cost more than \$2,500."

Timing for Fall Projects

Homeowners in the Auburn and Worcester County area who have renovation projects planned for fall 2026 have a two-day window to purchase qualifying materials at the tax-exempt rate. The exemption applies to in-store retail purchases made on August 8–9, 2026, during normal business hours.

"Tax-Free Weekend has quietly become one of the biggest home improvement weekends of the year. People aren't waiting for a sale anymore - they're waiting for August 8th," said Mark Chiavelli, Owner, [Floors & Kitchens Today](#).

Chiavelli notes the shift has been gradual but unmistakable. "A few years ago, most customers hadn't connected Tax-Free Weekend to a flooring or cabinet purchase. Now we see people moving projects up on their timeline specifically to take advantage of the exemption. A job that might have been planned for the holidays gets pulled forward to the end of summer because the math makes sense."

Chiavelli says the impact extends to independent retailers as well. "For our customers, it's been a real, tangible savings on purchases they were already planning to make. For an independent retailer like us, it levels the playing field against the large national chains. It's a win-win."

About Floors & Kitchens Today - Auburn

Floors & Kitchens Today has served the Auburn community since 2011 from its showroom at 470 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA 01501. The store carries carpet, hardwood, laminate, luxury vinyl plank, tile, area rugs, cabinetry, countertops, and window treatments. Free in-home estimates and consultations are available.

For questions about specific purchase eligibility, consumers may contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue at mass.gov/dor or (617) 887-6367.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mark Chiavelli
Floors & Kitchens Today
+1 508-761-1230

[email us here](#)

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