



Department of Taxation and Finance  
**New York State and Local Sales and Use Tax**  
**Certificate of Capital Improvement**

**ST-124**  
 (12/15)

After this certificate is completed and signed by both the customer and the contractor performing the capital improvement, it must be kept by the contractor. Copies of this certificate must be furnished to all subcontractors on the job and retained as part of their records.

**Read this form completely before making any entries.**

**This certificate may not be used to purchase building materials exempt from tax.**

Name of <b>contractor</b> <i>(print or type)</i>			Name of <b>customer</b> <i>(print or type)</i>		
Address <i>(number and street)</i>			Address <i>(number and street)</i>		
City	State	ZIP code	City	State	ZIP code
Sales tax <i>Certificate of Authority</i> number (if any)					

**To be completed by the customer**

Describe capital improvement to be performed:

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Project name					
Street address (where the work is to be performed)			City	State	ZIP code

I certify that:

- I am the *(mark an X in one)*  owner  tenant of the real property identified on this form; **and**
- the work described above will result in a capital improvement to the real property as outlined in the instructions of this form; **and**
- this contract *(mark an X in one)*  includes  does not include the sale of any items that will **not** become a permanent part of the real property (for example, a free-standing microwave or washing machine).

I understand that:

- I will be responsible for any sales tax, interest, and penalty due on the contractor's total charge for tangible personal property and for labor if it is determined that this work does not qualify as a capital improvement; **and**
- I will be required to pay the contractor the appropriate sales tax on tangible personal property (and any associated services) when the property installed by the contractor does not become a permanent part of the real property; **and**
- I will be subject to civil or criminal penalties (or both) under the Tax Law if I issue a false or fraudulent certificate.

Signature of customer	Title	Date
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**To be completed by the contractor**

I, the contractor, certify that I have entered into a contract to perform the work described by the customer named above, and that I accept this form in good faith. (A copy of the written contract, if any, is attached.) I understand that my failure to collect tax as a result of accepting an improperly completed certificate will make me personally liable for the tax otherwise due, plus penalties and interest.

Signature of contractor or officer	Title	Date
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**This certificate is not valid unless all entries are completed.**

## Instructions

When the customer completes this certificate and gives it to the contractor, who accepts it in good faith, it is evidence that the work to be performed will result in a capital improvement to real property.

A capital improvement to real property is an addition or alteration to real property that:

- (a) substantially adds to the value of the real property or appreciably prolongs the useful life of the real property, **and**
- (b) becomes part of the real property or is permanently affixed to the real property so that removal would cause material damage to the property or article itself, **and**
- (c) is intended to become a permanent installation.

The work performed by the contractor must meet all three of these requirements to be considered a capital improvement. This certificate may not be issued unless the work qualifies as a capital improvement. See Tax Bulletin *Capital Improvements* (TB-ST-104).

If a contractor performs work that constitutes a capital improvement, the contractor must pay tax on the purchase of building materials or other tangible personal property, but is not required to collect tax from the customer for the capital improvement. No credit or refund is allowed for the tax paid on the cost of materials by the contractor. See Tax Bulletin *Contractors – Sales Tax Credits* (TB-ST-130).

For guidance as to whether a job is a repair or a capital improvement, see Publication 862, *Sales and Use Tax Classifications of Capital Improvements and Repairs to Real Property*.

**A contractor, subcontractor, property owner, or tenant, may not use this certificate to purchase building materials or other tangible personal property tax free.** A contractor's acceptance of this certificate does not relieve the contractor of the liability for sales tax on the purchase of building materials or other tangible personal property subsequently incorporated into the real property as a capital improvement unless the contractor can legally issue Form ST-120.1, *Contractor Exempt Purchase Certificate*. (See Publication 862 for additional information.)

The term *materials* is defined as items that become a physical component part of real or personal property, such as lumber, bricks, or steel. This term also includes items such as doors, windows, sinks, and furnaces used in construction.

### Floor covering

Floor covering such as carpet, carpet padding, linoleum and vinyl roll flooring, carpet tile, linoleum tile, and vinyl tile installed as the initial finished floor covering in new construction, a new addition to an existing building or structure, or in a total reconstruction of an existing building or structure, constitutes a capital improvement regardless of the method of installation. As a capital improvement, the charge to the property owner for the installation of floor covering is **not** subject to New York State and local sales and use taxes. However, the retail purchase of floor covering (such as carpet or padding) itself is subject to tax.

Floor covering installed other than as described above does not qualify as a capital improvement. Therefore, the charges for materials and labor are subject to sales tax. The contractor may apply for a credit or refund of any sales tax already paid on the materials.

The term *floor covering* does **not** include flooring such as ceramic tile, hardwood, slate, terrazzo, and marble. The rules for determining when floor covering constitutes a capital improvement do not apply to such flooring. The criteria stated in (a), (b), and (c) above apply to such flooring.

### Temporary facilities at construction sites

Subcontracts to provide temporary facilities at construction sites that are necessary for the construction of a capital improvement are considered to be part of the capital improvement project. Examples of temporary facilities include temporary:

- heat, electric, or plumbing services;
- protective pedestrian walkways; and
- scaffolding services.

A primary contractor purchasing qualifying temporary facilities from a subcontractor must give the subcontractor a copy of Form ST-124 issued to the primary contractor by the customer (including a customer that is an exempt organization) to purchase the subcontractor's services exempt from tax.

A certificate is accepted in good faith when a contractor has no knowledge that the certificate is false or is fraudulently given, and reasonable ordinary due care is exercised in the acceptance of the certificate.

If a contractor gets a properly completed Form ST-124 from the customer within 90 days after rendering services, and accepts it in good faith, the customer bears the burden of proving the job or transaction was not taxable.

If you are a contractor who installs items such as washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, furniture, etc., which when installed or placed in real property do not become part of the real property, you must collect tax on your charge for the installation. The individual charge for any of these items is also taxable as the sale of tangible personal property.

If a contractor does not get a properly completed *Certificate of Capital Improvement* within 90 days, the contractor bears the burden of proving the work or transaction was a capital improvement. The failure to get a properly completed certificate, however, does not change the taxable status of a transaction; a contractor may still show that the transaction was a capital improvement.

Contractors and subcontractors must keep any exemption certificate for at least three years after the due date of the last return to which it relates, or the date the return was filed, if later. The contractor must also maintain a method of associating an exempt sale made to a particular customer with the exemption certificate on file for that customer.

### Need help?



Visit our website at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov)

- get information and manage your taxes online
- check for new online services and features



#### Telephone assistance

**Sales Tax** Information Center: (518) 485-2889

To order forms and publications: (518) 457-5431

**Text Telephone (TTY) Hotline** (for persons with hearing and speech disabilities using a TTY): (518) 485-5082



**Persons with disabilities:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, we will ensure that our lobbies, offices, meeting rooms, and other facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. If you have questions about special accommodations for persons with disabilities, call the information center.

### Privacy notification

See our website or Publication 54, *Privacy Notification*.