

Year	Texas License Plate History
1907	First vehicle registered under Texas state law, a bus in operation between Snyder and Colorado City, the first inter-city bus line in Texas.
1917	First plate/registration insignia is issued at state level, each bearing a unique numeric sequence
1925	First plates bearing year of issuance
1928 – 1930	Plates manufactured in FRONT and REAR pairs.
1931	Introduction of alpha-numeric plate sequence
1935	First state-manufactured license plates issued, created by inmates at Huntsville
1943 - 1944	World War II metal conservation efforts led to the use of small metal tags at the time of annual registration rather than the issuance of entirely new plates
1956	The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) established a uniform national plate size policy (6 x 12 inches)
1968	Hemisfair plate issued
1969	<p>First year that plates were created with reflective coating (reflectorization)</p> <p>From 1969-1975: Plates issued in odd-numbered years were black-on-white, even-numbered years were various colors on white.</p>
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1974	1974 was the last yearly plate issue for Texas plates. A different die set was used for late 1973 and the first run of 1974 plates. Late 1974 plates were made with dies, which remained in use until the dies were phased out. Characters in the new plates were slightly shorter, wider, with numbers and letters being the same height.
1975	Multi-year registration begins, plate stickers issued

1976	Star divider was replaced with the Texas-shaped divider approximately halfway through the 1976 series
1977	Last year for single-year stickers, month/year stickers begin in 1978 with staggered registration
1978	Staggered registration begins; month stickers are placed in the top left corner, year stickers in the top right corner. This year, the debossed "75" in the upper right (which had appeared with late-1974-produced plates) was removed.
1982	1982 plate sequences were issued in an ABC-## format when the numbers were under 100 (e.g., ABC-99 rather than ABC-099). Leading zeroes were used in front of numbers under 100 when the plate sequence format was changed.
1983	Beginning in late 1982, the plate sequence was changed to numbers-first format, 123-ABC.
1986	Sesquicentennial plate year, with these plates used throughout 1986 and valid with new stickers through 1995. The first run of plates listed SESQUICENTENNIAL at the bottom of the plate, with later plates listing SESQUICENTENNIAL at the top, below TEXAS.
1987	The "Big Red" plate, plates issued in late 1986 and 1987 featured a larger, bolder state name at the top of the plate. Some counties continued to issue these plates through early 1990.
1989	In late 1989, the base "Big Red" design was changed, with the addition of the state flag the top of the plate, TEXAS now being in smaller, blue letters.
1992	The state flag base was modified in 1992 to include the state motto, THE LONE STAR STATE, across the center bottom of the plate.
1993	Issuance of first interior windshield sticker for most vehicles (January 1995 expirations), replacing plate sticker (issued in December 1993)
1995	1995-1996: Special issue standard plate commemorating 150 years of statehood. This design won the American License Plate Collectors' Association (ALPCA) Plate of the Year award in 1995.
1997	After the 150 Years of Statehood plate design, the flag and state motto plate returned. Some plates issued during this time featured a design that placed the state flag to the right of TEXAS instead of to the left.
1999	The 1999 plate design retained the Texas-shaped separator and the LONE STAR STATE slogan along the bottom, but was otherwise changed with the

	addition of graphical symbols of Texas across the top and bottom edges of the plate.
2004	Sequence changed to 123-ABC format (this format was last used from 1982-90). The initial run of these plates were made of steel, but during this run, the material was changed to aluminum.
2005	Artwork changes: An American flag was added to the Shuttle, seven large stars were placed above the Shuttle to honor the astronauts lost in 2003, the addition of state flag motif to center Texas-shaped divider, and a smaller cowboy and horse.
2007	The design remained unchanged from 2005; however, the plate sequence was changed, using ABC-123, which was last used between 1975 and 1982. It only took three years for the 123-ABC sequence to be exhausted.
2008	Last year for stamped/embossed plates to be produced.
2009	This design was chosen in 2008 in an online vote. This is the first passenger plate to be produced as a flat plate, and the first seven-digit sequence used in Texas. The sequence mixed numbers and letters for the first time, using the format AB1-C234.
2011	The background graphic of the plate issued in 2009 was modified to improve legibility for law enforcement.
2012	The "Texas Classic", which is reminiscent of the black-on-white plates of the sixties and seventies, eliminated the colorful graphic elements in use since 1999. This is the general-issue plate still in use today.