

Moving to the Burbs

Finding Sales Tax

Nicki's family recently purchased a new home in the suburbs. After moving in, Nicki and her father went to buy materials and equipment to care for the lawn. Nicki learned a lot about lawn care and sales tax. Solve the following problems. If necessary, round your answers to the nearest cent.



1 To fill in some bare spots in the lawn, Nicki and her father bought grass seed for \$65.95. The sales tax was 5%. What was the total cost of the grass seed?

2 Next, Nicki and her father bought fertilizer for \$79.49. The sales tax was 5%. What was the total cost of the fertilizer?

3 To water the new grass seed, Nicki and her father bought a hose for \$18.99 and a sprinkler for \$6.99. The sales tax for these items was 4.5%. What was the total cost of the hose?

What was the total cost of the sprinkler?

4 They decided they would also need garden tools. The cost of this equipment was \$57.95. The sales tax was 4.5%. What was the total cost of the equipment?

5 Thinking ahead to fall when they would have to clear leaves, Nicki and her father bought a leaf blower for \$89.59. The sales tax was 5%. What was the total cost of the leaf blower?

Last year, the sales tax on leaf blowers was 4.3%. If they had purchased the same model leaf blower last year for the same price (\$89.59), how much money would they have saved in sales tax?

6 Because their lawn is so big, Nicki's father wants to buy a riding mower. The model he likes costs \$2,895.95. The sales tax on this mower in their state is 5%. In a neighboring state, the sales tax on the mower is 3.5%. Nicki's father is considering buying the mower there, but the round-trip is 150 miles. His pickup truck gets 21 miles per gallon of gas, and gas costs \$1.80 per gallon. Do you think the savings in sales tax is enough to justify making the trip to buy the mower in the next state? Explain your answer on the back of this page.