

What do you need to file taxes?

You'll need these documents for tax prep depending on your filing situation. To help you get ready for your tax appointment, we've created a checklist to help you know what forms to bring.

Personal Information

- Tax Identification Numbers are mandatory items on your checklist. All taxpayers will need the following to do their taxes.
- Your social security number or tax ID number
- Your spouse's full name, social security number or tax ID number, and date of birth
- Identity Protection PIN, if one has been issued to you, your spouse, or your dependent by the IRS
- Routing and account numbers to receive your refund by direct deposit or pay your balance due if you choose
- Foreign reporting and residency information - if applicable

Dependent(s) Information

- Parents and caregivers should gather this information as they review what they need to file their taxes.
- Dates of birth and social security numbers or tax ID numbers
- Childcare records (including the provider's tax ID number) if applicable
- Income of dependents and of other adults in your home
- Form 8332 showing that the child's custodial parent is releasing their right to claim a child to you, the noncustodial parent (if applicable)

Sources of Income

Many of these forms won't be needed to file taxes every year.

Employment

- Forms W-2
- Unemployment (1099-G)

Self-Employed

- Forms 1099, Schedules K-1, income records to verify amounts not reported on 1099-MISC or 1099-NEC
- Records of all expenses — check registers or credit card statements, and receipts
- Business-use asset information (cost, date placed in service, etc.) for depreciation
- Office in home information, if applicable
- Record of estimated tax payments made (Form 1040-ES)

Rental Income

- Records of income and expenses
- Rental asset information (cost, date placed in service, etc.) for depreciation
- Record of estimated tax payments made (Form 1040-ES)

Retirement Income

- Pension/IRA/annuity income (1099-R)
- Traditional IRA basis (i.e., amounts you contributed to the IRA that were already taxed)
- Social security/RRB income: SSA-1099, RRB-1099

Savings & Investments or Dividends

- Interest, dividend income (1099-INT, 1099-OID, 1099-DIV)
- Income from sales of stock or other property (1099-B, 1099-S)

- Dates of acquisition and records of your cost or other basis in property you sold (if basis is not reported on 1099-B)
- Health Savings Account and long-term care reimbursements (1099-SA or 1099-LTC)
- Expenses related to your investments
- Record of estimated tax payments made (Form 1040-ES)
- Transactions involving cryptocurrency (Virtual currency)

Other Income & Losses

- Payment Card and Third Party Network Transactions - 1099-K
- Gambling income (W-2G or records showing income, as well as expense records)
- Jury duty records
- Hobby income and expenses
- Prizes and awards
- Trust income
- Royalty Income 1099-MISC
- Any other 1099s received
- Record of alimony paid/received with ex-spouse's name and SSN
- State tax refund

Types of Deductions

The types of deductions you can take depend a lot on your financial situation. You may need all or some of the documents listed below for your taxes.

Home and Vehicle Ownership

- Forms 1098 or other mortgage interest statements
- Real estate and personal property tax records
- Receipts for energy-saving home improvements (e.g., solar panels, solar water heater)
- Electric vehicle information
- All other 1098 series forms

Charitable Donations

- Cash amounts donated to houses of worship, schools, other charitable organizations
- Records of non-cash charitable donations
- Amounts of miles driven for charitable or medical purposes

Medical Expenses

- Amounts paid for healthcare, insurance, and to doctors, dentists, and hospitals
- Amounts paid for qualified insurance premiums if paid outside of the Marketplace or an employer provided plan

Health Insurance

- Form 1095-A if you enrolled in an insurance plan through the Marketplace (Exchange)

Childcare Expenses

- Fees paid to a licensed day care center or family day care for care of an infant or preschooler
- Amounts paid to a baby-sitter or provider care of your child under age 13 while you work
- Expenses paid through a dependent care flexible spending account at work

Educational Expenses

- Forms 1098-T from educational institutions
- Receipts that itemize qualified educational expenses
- Records of any scholarships or fellowships you received
- Form 1098-E if you paid student loan interest

K-12 Educator Expenses

- Receipts for classroom expenses (for educators in grades K-12)

State and Local Taxes

- Amount of state and local income or sales tax paid (other than wage withholding)
- Invoice showing amount of vehicle sales tax paid and / or personal property tax on vehicles

Retirement & Other Savings

- Form 5498-SA showing HSA contributions
- Form 5498 showing IRA contributions
- All other 5498 series forms (5498-QA, 5498-ESA)

Federally Declared Disaster

- City/county you lived/worked/had property in
- Records to support property losses (appraisal, clean-up costs, etc.)
- Records of rebuilding/repair costs
- Insurance reimbursements/claims to be paid
- FEMA assistance information