

ABRAHAM COHAN CPA

Tax Preparation Checklist

Before you begin to prepare your income tax return, go through the following checklist. Put a check mark next to the items that apply to you, and make sure you have that information available.

Personal Information

- Social Security numbers and dates of birth for you, your spouse, your dependents
- Copies of last year's tax return for you and your spouse (if you filed)
- Bank account and routing number, if depositing your refund directly into your account
- Proof of health insurance: Form 1095-A, 1095-B or 1095-C

Income Information

- W-2 forms for you and your spouse
- 1099-C forms for cancellation of debt
- 1099-G forms for unemployment income, or state tax refunds
- 1099-MISC forms for you and your spouse (for any independent contractor work)
- 1099-R, Form 8606 for payments/distributions from IRAs or retirement plans
- 1099-S forms for income from sale of a property
- 1099-INT, -DIV, -B, or K-1s for investment or interest income
- SSA-1099 for Social Security benefits received
- Alimony received
- Business or farming income - profit/loss statement, capital equipment information
- Rental property income and expenses: profit/loss statement, suspended loss information
- Miscellaneous income: jury duty, gambling winnings, Medical Savings Account, etc.

Income Adjustments

- Form 1098-E for student loan interest paid (or loan statements for student loans)
- Form 1098-T for tuition paid (or receipts/canceled checks for tuition paid for post-HS)
- For teachers: Canceled checks or receipts for expenses paid for classroom supplies, etc.
- Records of IRA contributions made during the year
- Receipts for any qualifying energy-efficient home improvements (solar, windows, etc.)
- Records of Medical Savings Account (MSA) contributions
- Self-employed health insurance payment records
- Records of moving expenses
- Alimony paid
- Keogh, SEP, SIMPLE, and other self-employed pension plans

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Deductions and credits

- Child care costs: provider's name, address, tax ID, and amount paid
- Education costs: Form 1098-T, education expenses
- Adoption costs: SSN of child; records of legal, medical and transportation costs
- Forms 1098: Mortgage interest, private mortgage insurance (PMI), and points you paid
- Investment interest expenses
- Charitable donations: official charity receipts, canceled checks, miles driven
- Medical and dental expense records
- Casualty and theft losses: amount of damage, insurance reimbursements
- Union dues
- Unreimbursed expenses (uniforms, supplies, continuing education, publications, etc.)
- Records of home business expenses, home size/office size, home expenses
- Rental property income/expenses: profit/loss statement, rental property suspended loss

Taxes you paid

- State and local income taxes paid
- Real estate taxes paid
- Personal property taxes
- Vehicle license fees based on value of vehicle

Other Information

- Estimated tax payments made during the year (self-employed)
- Prior-year refund applied to current year and/or any amount paid with an extension
- Foreign bank account information: location, name of bank, account number