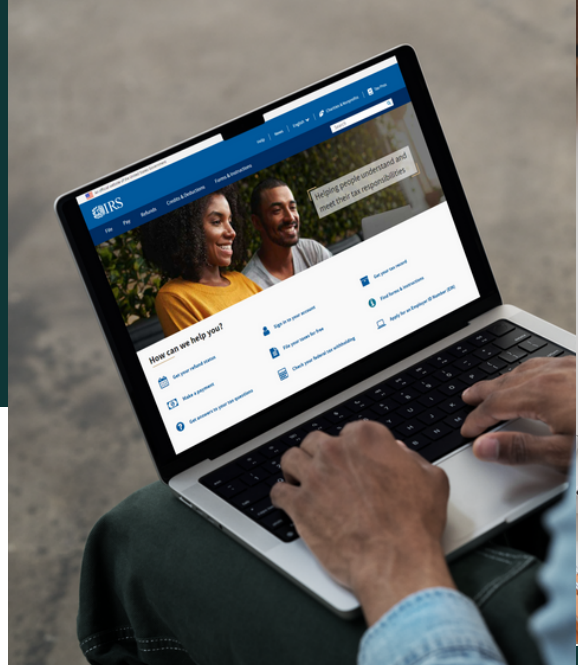


Access Your IRS Information

www.irs.gov

Steps:

- Go to www.irs.gov/your-account and select the “Sign in to your Online Account” button
- Click “Create Account”
- Pass “Secure Access” authentication. Individuals must be able to authenticate their identity to continue to set up an account. See IRS.gov/secureaccess for details
- Create a profile



How to Check the Status of Your Tax Refund

Federal:

<https://www.irs.gov/wheretofindform/quickstart>

State (Wisconsin):

<https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/Apps/CheckYourRefund.aspx> **OR**

<https://tap.revenue.wi.gov/RefundStatus/>



ADDITIONALLY, TAXPAYERS CAN VIEW:

- The amount they owe, updated for the current calendar day
- Their balance details by year
- Their payment history and any scheduled or pending payments
- Key information from their most recent tax return
- Details about their payment plan, if they have one
- Digital copies of select notices or letters from the IRS (under the Message Center tab)

PEOPLE CAN ALSO:

- Make a payment online
- See payment plan options and request a plan via the Online Payment Agreement
- Access their tax records via Get Transcript



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Frequently Asked Questions / Topics

File Your Own Taxes for Free

Doing your own taxes with *guided tax software* can be **faster**, **simpler**, and **cheaper** than using a preparer. If your income is lower than \$79,000, you likely qualify for IRS Free File. Even if you don't fully understand your tax situation, it's as simple as following clear, written instructions, answering questions, and uploading your forms. See your options at: apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile

What Happens if I Don't File My Taxes?

If you owe nothing or are owed a refund, you do not need to file your taxes (although, you are missing out on getting your money back), and can file anytime in the next three years. However, if you owe any money and do not file, the IRS will charge you interest on your unpaid taxes, meaning that you will have to pay more overall. You should file your return and pay as much as you can as soon as possible to reduce your tax debt.

If you're not sure whether you're required to file a return, use the ['Do I Need to File a Tax Return?'](#) tool on the IRS website. Ultimately, the best way to know whether you owe taxes or are owed a refund is to file and find out.

How Can I Contact the IRS?

Most questions and instructions for what to do in common situations are answered online on the IRS's website. You should be able to access them by entering the question in a search engine and clicking on a result from irs.gov, or by using the IRS's Interactive Tax Assistant at irs.gov/help/ita.

If you cannot find an answer to your questions online, you can call the IRS at **1-800-829-1040** / make an appointment at a local Taxpayer Assistance Center (which you can find at apps.irs.gov/app/office-locator/). There may be long wait times for these services during tax season. Madison office: 1242 Fourier Dr., Suite 200, Madison, WI 53717 (call 844-545-5640 for appointments)

Are There Tax Scams?

Yes! Taxpayers should be cautious when choosing a tax preparer. Be very careful if it sounds too good to be true. Don't become a victim to any scheme that offers instant wealth or exemption from your obligation to file tax returns and/or pay taxes.

While many tax preparers provide excellent service to their clients, each year some tax preparers file false tax returns, or profit off of their clients' confusion. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

In addition, the IRS *will never call you* to demand payment, threaten you with local police action or deportation, or call unexpectedly about a refund. Record the number and hang up.

Paying a Preparer or Service

Average tax preparation for basic returns is around \$100-\$200. The more complicated or more forms you need to file, the more the price may go up. It's best to compare prices and read the fine print about any special offers or deals. Make sure you find a tax preparer you trust.

Some agencies offer you a *Refund Advance* the same day you file your return. Understand that this is a loan, and they may be taking a large part of your refund in exchange for getting your money right away.

When Will I Get My Refund?

The IRS issues most refunds in less than 21 days. Some may take 4-6 weeks or longer if there are further reviews or corrections needed, if it is an amendment, or if it was mailed.

When Should I Check the Status of My Refund?

You should check you refund online or by calling 1-800-829-1040 (automated system):

- 24 hours after your return was e-filed
- 4 weeks after mailing your paper return.

You should **contact the IRS** if you haven't gotten your refund and:

- It has been 3 weeks or more since you filed electronically
- It has been more than 6 weeks since you mailed your paper return
- The "Where's My Refund?" tool directs you to contact the IRS.



Is There a Mobile App that I Can Use?

Yes, **IRS2Go** is the official mobile app of the IRS. Check your refund status, make a payment, find free tax preparation assistance, sign up for helpful tax tips, and more! IRS2Go is available in both English and Spanish. More information can be found at: irs.gov/help/irs2goapp



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