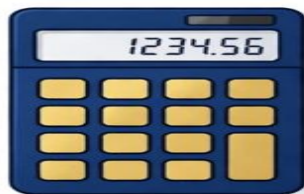


HOW TO AVOID IRS PROBLEMS

Essential Tax Best Practices for Taxpayers

Free Guide 2026
by Team FoundWell Group



- ✓ Filing Requirements
- ✓ Record Keeping
- ✓ Deductions
- ✓ Deadlines
- ✓ Compliance

Stay Compliant • Reduce Risk • File with Confidence



HOW TO AVOID IRS PROBLEMS: Essential Tax Best Practices for Taxpayers

TEAM FOUNDWELL GROUP

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FREE GUIDE 2026

Nobody wants a letter from the IRS. Yet every year, millions of taxpayers face penalties, interest charges, and unnecessary stress—simply because of avoidable mistakes.

The good news? Most IRS problems are entirely preventable.

This guide walks you through practical, proven strategies to stay on the IRS's good side. From recordkeeping to filing deadlines, these best practices will help you file with confidence and keep your financial future secure.

WHY IRS PROBLEMS HAPPEN + RECORDKEEPING?

WHY IRS PROBLEMS HAPPEN:(And How to Stop Them Before They Start)

The IRS doesn't set out to penalize honest taxpayers. Most issues arise from simple errors.

- ✗ Math miscalculations
- ✗ Missing signatures
- ✗ Unreported income

According to the IRS, common mistakes include:

- Incorrect filing status
- Misspelled names
- Wrong Social Security numbers
- Inaccurate bank account information

MASTER THE BASICS OF RECORDKEEPING

Keep Organized Records Year-Round

Good recordkeeping is the foundation of a stress-free tax season. The IRS recommends keeping all important tax records in one place—whether that's electronic recordkeeping software or clearly labeled paper folders.

Why does this matter?

Organized records make tax preparation easier and help you spot deductions. They also protect you during an audit.

WHAT TO KEEP + FILING

WHAT RECORDS TO KEEP

Your books and records should include:

- ✓ Sales slips and receipts
- ✓ Paid bills and invoices
- ✓ Deposit slips and canceled checks
- ✓ Forms W-2 and 1099

CRITICAL REMINDER:

An extension gives you more time to FILE,
but NOT more time to PAY.
Pay what you owe by April 15.

HOW LONG TO KEEP THEM:

Generally, retain tax documents for at least 3 years from filing date.
Keep copies of your tax returns indefinitely.



FILE ACCURATELY AND ON TIME

- Don't File Too Early—or Too Late
- Filing too soon = Missing W-2 or 1099 = IRS notice.
- Missing deadline = Costly penalties.
- Annual federal deadline: APRIL 15
- Can't file? Request extension → OCTOBER 15

FILE ELECTRONICALLY:

E-file detects errors instantly. Choose direct deposit for faster, safer refunds.

REVIEW +INCOME +WITHHOLDING

REVIEW BEFORE YOU SIGN

Never sign a blank return.

Check:

- ☒ Names and Social Security numbers match your card.
- ☒ Correct filing status
- ☒ All income entries
- ☒ Bank routing and account numbers

Remember: You are responsible for accuracy.

REPORT ALL INCOME

No Income Is “Off the Books”

The IRS receives copies of your W-2s and 1099s. Report ALL:

- Wages and salaries (W-2)
- Freelance/Gig work (1099-NEC or 1099-K)
- Bank interest and dividends
- Rental income
- Unemployment benefits.

UNDERSTAND YOUR AGI

Adjusted Gross Income = Total Income - Adjustments

Lower AGI = Lower tax bill. Contribute to retirement plans.

CHECK YOUR WITHHOLDING

Avoid Surprises at Tax Time

Taxes are "pay-as-you-go". Use the IRS Tax Withholding Estimator.

Life changes? Update Form W-4:
Marriage | New Job | New Child |
Divorce

CAN'T PAY +CONCLUSION +CTA

WHAT TO DO IF YOU CAN'T PAY

Don't Ignore the Problem

1. FILE your return on time anyway
2. PAY what you can by April 15
3. SET UP a payment plan online with IRS

Acting early prevents penalties and interest

RESPOND PROMPTLY TO IRS NOTICES

Read it carefully. Respond by the deadline.
Use IRS Document Upload Tool.
Check your account online.

**NEED HELP? FOUNDWELL
GROUP IS HERE FOR YOU**

“Your peace of mind is worth the effort.”

