

## Business Tax Facts

**Q.** Where do I get a business license?

**A:** The county does not issue any privilege license, however if your business is located inside a city limit, you may want to check with that city.

Bald Head Island	910-457-9700
Belville	910-371-2456
Boiling Spring Lakes	910-845-2614
Bolivia	910-253-5303
Calabash	910-579-6747
Carolina Shores	910-575-4877
Caswell Beach	910-278-5471
Holden Beach	910-842-6488
Leland	910-371-0148
Navassa	910-371-2432
Northwest	910-655-3110
Oak Island	910-201-8009
Ocean Isle Beach	910-579-2166
Sandy Creek	910-655-3153
Shallotte	910-754-4032
Southport	910-457-7900
St. James	910-253-4730
Sunset Beach	910-579-6297
Varnamtown	910-842-3095

**Q.** Most of the assets were given to me. Do I still have to list them?

**A.** All property that is used or held in connection with a business must be listed. This includes assets that are given as gifts.

North Carolina General Statute 105-304(f)(2) states "Tangible personal property situated at or commonly used in connection with a business, premises hired, occupied, or used by the owner of the personal property is taxable."

**Q.** Why did I receive a late list penalty on my bill and how much penalty am I paying?

**A.** The length of the listing period is during the month of January. Anything received after this time period, that does not have an extension, receives a late list penalty of 10%.

**Q.** Can I get an extension to list my business and if so for how long?

**A.** In order to avoid a late list penalty, the taxpayer must send in a written request for an extension showing good cause as to why the taxpayer needs additional time to list. The extension can be granted up to and no later than April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Q.** Where can I get a copy of my Business Personal Property Listing Form?

**A.** You may obtain any previous years listing from the Business Personal Property Office at the Government Complex in Bolivia, NC.

**Q.** I use my personal computer a couple of times a month to do invoices. Do I still have to list my own personal computer?

**A.** Anything used in connection with a business must be listed. This includes any personal property brought from the home or used in the home for the purpose of conducting business.

**Q.** How did you arrive at the value placed on my business?

**A.** The cost information you provide on the listing form is depreciated from the year in which it was purchased. The schedule used in arriving at the current value is the trending schedule provided by the Department of Revenue. If you did not list, and you did not respond to the 30-day letter mailed to you, then the value placed on the business is an estimated value either based on previous years listings or like businesses.

**Q.** My equipment is all very old and does not have any value to it. Why am I still getting a tax bill?

**A.** Equipment is never depreciated down to a 0 value by the county. The trending schedules from the Department of Revenue only allows us to depreciate equipment down to a 25% residual value, which is the value the property holds until its disposal. The only exception is computer equipment, which is depreciated down to a 10% residual value.

**Q.** We sold the business in February. Why am I still getting billed?

**A.** Ownership of personal property is determined as of January 1<sup>st</sup> each year. If property was not sold until February then the January 1<sup>st</sup> owner is responsible for the listing of the property and the taxes owed is an issue between the buyer and seller.

**Q.** What is a depreciation schedule or fixed asset schedule?

**A.** A depreciation schedule or fixed asset schedule is a list of all assets owned by the business, sole proprietor, partnership or corporation. This list provides pertinent information that is useful in listing such as a description of the asset, the year in which the asset was purchased and the cost information.

**Q.** Why is my business being audited?

**A.** All businesses in Brunswick County are randomly selected for an audit. The main two objectives for auditing businesses are:

1. Ensuring that all business values are fair & equitable
2. Educating business owners on listing correctly

**Q.** Who do I talk to about appealing my audit and how long do I have to make an appeal?

**A.** All taxpayers have the right to appeal. You must appeal within 30 days from the first notice of value. This must be done by a signed, written request to the Assessor.

**Q.** I sent you my business listing and wrote same as last year on it so why did you return it?

**A.** The directions that are attached with the listing form, clearly states that if a listing is marked "same as last year" or has not been signed by an authorized signer, the listing will be rejected and could result in penalties being assessed. The *General Statutes* state that all tangible property is to be listed. Writing "same as last year" is not considered a listing.

**Q.** How did you find out about my business?

**A.** There are many different resources our offices use in order to educate new business owners to list the property,

1. Telephone
2. Visiting New Businesses
3. Newspaper
4. Business Cards
5. Information returned from new business packet

**Q.** Is there a law that says I have to list my business?

**A.** North Carolina *General Statute* 105-274 (a)(1-2) states All property, real and personal within the jurisdiction of the state shall be subject to taxation unless it is:

1. Excluded from the tax base by a statute of statewide application enacted under the classification power accorded the *General Assembly* by Article V 2(2), of the North Carolina Constitution, or
2. Exempted from taxation by the Constitution or by the statute of statewide application enacted under the authority granted the *General Assembly* by Article V 2(3), of the North Carolina Constitution.

**Q.** My equipment is located in New Hanover County by January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year until May. Why do I have to list in Brunswick County?

**A.** If equipment is generally moved from one place to another the equipment must then, be listed to the county in which the business office is based.

**Q.** Do I have to list my inventory?

**A.** Inventory is no longer considered taxable in the state of North Carolina. Inventory is items for sale during the regular course of business.

**Q.** Why am I just now being notified that I have to list my business?

**A.** It is the responsibility of each business owner to list his or her assets as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Our office makes every effort to educate all business owners that the law requires them to list their assets. We also send out new business packets to every business we find and have these packets with all town hall and chambers of commerce. Also, we run an ad in the local newspapers before and during the listing period.

**Q.** Can my brother come in and list for me?

**A.** Listings must be signed by a legally authorized person

1. The Taxpayer
2. A principal officer of the taxpayer
3. A full-time employee of the taxpayer who has been officially empowered by the principal officer to list the property.

**A TAX REPRESENTATIVE OR CPA CANNOT SIGN YOUR LISTING FORM!**

**Q.** Where can I get a form to list my business?

**A.** You may pick up a form in the Business Personal Property Office or You may logon to [www.brunswickcountync.gov](http://www.brunswickcountync.gov) and:

1. Click on Tax Information (on the left hand side)
2. Click on Personal Prop. Tax: Business
3. Click on Business Personal Property Listing form.