



The City of Myrtle Beach: Financial Services Department *Business License FAQs*

BUSINESS LICENSES: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“Who needs a business license?” Every person, firm, corporation or other legal entity engaged in business or maintaining an office, or acting as an agent within the city limits of Myrtle Beach, must obtain an annual license.

“When is the business license fee due?” The City of Myrtle Beach is standardizing its business license year with other communities across the state. City Council approved the change in January 2020, and it takes effect in April 2020. The new due date for business license renewal payments is April 30, with late payments becoming delinquent on June 1, 2020. The delinquency date is being delayed one year so that businesses have time to adjust to the new due date. In the following year (2021), payments will be considered delinquent on May 1. This puts Myrtle Beach on the same business license year as other cities. Myrtle Beach already accepts the uniform business license application form. A shared portal is being developed which will allow all license holders to renew licenses with one application for all participating jurisdictions where the business is licensed.

“What are the delinquent penalty rates?” Beginning on the delinquent date, penalties are assessed at the rate of 5% per month (with a maximum penalty of 30%) until all license fees and penalties are paid. New businesses or new owners of existing businesses must purchase the business license prior to operating within the city limits of Myrtle Beach. Penalties are assessed at the rate of 5% per month for opening and operating a business prior to obtaining a business license.

“How is the license fee calculated?” Fees are calculated using the gross receipts of your business. Gross receipts are the total revenues generated by the business. Taxes collected for a governmental entity, or income which cannot be included for computation of the tax pursuant to State and Federal law, are not deemed income and qualify as exempt. Gross receipts from business conducted outside the city limits for which a license tax is paid to another municipality or county are also exempt. The license fee for a new business is calculated on an estimation of gross receipts from the first day of operation until April 30. The reporting period for renewals is based on the preceding calendar or fiscal year.

“Are rental properties required to have a business license?” Yes! On June 10, 2014, City Council adopted a new business license ordinance (effective June 1, 2015) which requires a business license for all types of rental properties. This includes short-term, long-term, residential and commercial rentals.

“Will one license cover my business?” A separate license is required for each place of business, and for each classification of business conducted at one place. If gross income cannot be separated for each classification at one location, the business license fee will be computed on the combined income for the classification requiring the highest rate.



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“What happens if I operate without a license?” Violations are subject to a fine of up to \$1,092.00 and/or imprisonment. Each day of the violation is considered a separate offense.

“Can the city refuse to license a business?” A license will not be issued if one of the following applies....

- The application is incomplete.
- A prior year’s license fees and penalties have not been paid in full.
- The business location is not zoned for your type of business.
- A violation of City Ordinance exists.
- The applicant is delinquent in the payment to the municipality of any tax or fee.

“Do I have to display the license?” Yes. The business license must be conspicuously displayed for the public to view. Transient or non-resident businesses must carry the license or keep it in their vehicle.

City of Myrtle Beach
Business License Division
P.O. Box 2468
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Questions? Direct any inquiries to the Business License Division at 843-918-1200 or buslic@cityofmyrtlebeach.com. We are available and happy to assist you through the business licensure process!