

DID YOU KNOW?

Business license tax certificates operate on a yearly period, from July 1 through June 30.

A license is current for the license year in which you obtain it and must be renewed each July 1 as long as you are in business.

A Business License is an annual tax you pay each fiscal year for the activity of doing business within the incorporated area of the City of Ventura.

Applications are available on the city's website or in person at the Business Tax Office.

The City of Ventura has rules about Business Licenses.

The City's Municipal, Zoning, and Building codes ensure the safety of our community and our businesses. Code Enforcement assists our community with the regulations as set forth by the Ventura City Council.

Anyone providing goods or services for money is conducting business and is required to have a business license.

Cost of a Business License

The cost depends on the type of business and your gross receipts for a 12-month period. Also, businesses based in a commercial location are subject to a (one-time) Fire Inspection. The fee for the Fire Inspection is collected by the Business Tax Office. For an estimate or assistance with calculating the business license tax contact the Business Tax Office.



Local businesses help grow our economy.

The City of Ventura Code Enforcement Division is available to assist you in understanding the various codes and obtaining compliance.

Code Enforcement serves our community with compassion to promote safe and clean neighborhoods, preserve property values, support economic vitality through education and compliance. Ventura is where we live, work, and play!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT

City of Ventura - City Hall

501 Poli St., Ventura CA
www.CityofVentura.ca.gov

Code Enforcement - City Hall, Rm 117

805-658-4711
www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/CodeEnforcement

Business Tax Office - City Hall, Rm 107

805-658-4715
www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/BusinessLicense

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by contacting the California Relay Service.



BUSINESS LICENSE TAX

CITY OF VENTURA

INFORMATION & RULES

- Businesses
- Home Occupation



CITY OF
VENTURA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do I need a license to run a business from my home?

A: Yes. A license is required whether working from a commercial location or from your home.

Q: I conduct business in several cities. Can I get just one license to do business in ALL of them?

A: Each city has its own business license requirements and you must have a business license to conduct business in each one. Fortunately, you only pay the tax on the portion of gross receipts that is generated in each particular city. In addition, when you are based outside of the City of Ventura, and come into our city to do business, we can “apportion” your tax. That will save you some money.



Q: I work for another company and am paid on a “1099” basis. Do I need a business license?

A: Yes. If you are not an employee (reported to the IRS on a W2 basis) you are considered an Independent Contractor and are subject to a business license.

Q: I don’t make much money. Am I still required to obtain a license?

A: Even if you conduct business on a part-time, limited, or hobby-related basis, you are required to obtain a license. But, if you earn less than \$2400.00 per year, you may be eligible for limited income status. Contact the Business Tax Office for more information.

Q: What if I have more than one business?

A: If you own more than one business, you may be eligible to consolidate or “link” your business license taxes and save money. For more information contact the Business Tax Office.

Q: Are there any other requirements that I should know about?

A: Depending on the type and location of your business, there may be requirements from other agencies or city departments. Consider the following: County Environmental Health Department for selling/ preparing food and/or generating hazardous waste(s); County Air Pollution Control District for using, selling or transferring equipment that may cause air contaminants; city Fire Inspection for the use or storage of flammables, corrosives, explosives, toxins or other hazardous materials; city Planning to ensure your business type and location does not conflict with zoning regulations; Franchise Tax Board regarding withholding taxes and corporate state taxes; Employment Development (EDD) for State withholding taxes, disability, and unemployment insurance for employees.

Q: What if I don’t comply with the Business License Tax regulations and requirements?

A: Our main objective is to obtain voluntary compliance with all of Ventura’s municipal codes. But if for some reason you don’t comply, you may be subject to a range of fines per each offense and potentially other civil penalties. For more information contact Code Enforcement.