

Small Business Deductions Cheat Sheet

Commonly missed deductions by industry — so you stop leaving money on the table at tax time.

Marlen Bookkeeper & Tax Services, LLC · Enrolled Agents · Tax Preparation · IRS Resolution · Bookkeeping

Most small businesses overpay because they don't track deductions they're entitled to. Use this to spot what **might** apply to you. Whether you actually qualify — and how to claim it without raising red flags — is where professional guidance protects you.

Many business owners miss deductions simply because they don't know they qualify. Here are commonly overlooked categories by industry. **Qualifying rules and limits apply** — this is a prompt to ask us, not a green light to claim everything.

Real Estate & Agents

- Vehicle & mileage
- Marketing, signage & photography
- Licensing & MLS dues
- Home office
- Client gifts (limits apply)

Contractors & Trades

- Tools & equipment
- Work vehicle & fuel
- Job materials & supplies
- Licenses & certifications
- Protective gear

Salons & Beauty

- Booth rent or space costs
- Products & supplies
- Tools & equipment
- Training & education
- Uniforms/aprons

Consultants & Online

- Software & subscriptions
- Home office
- Professional development
- Marketing & website
- Business travel

Food & Hospitality

- Supplies & small equipment
- Staff & payroll costs
- Some meal costs (limits apply)
- Licenses & permits
- Marketing

Almost Everyone

- Business bank/card fees
- Professional services (like us!)
- Business insurance
- Phone & internet (business %)
- Retirement contributions

Important: Claiming a deduction you don't qualify for is one of the fastest ways to trigger an audit. The value isn't just knowing these exist — it's claiming them *correctly* and defensibly. That's what we do.

Think you're missing deductions?

Let's review your business and make sure you claim everything you qualify for — correctly. Book a call.

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