

DECEMBER 2024

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## ADOR TAX TIPS

### **Don't Get Spooked by a Ghost Tax Preparer**

The Arizona Department of Revenue cautions taxpayers to be aware of "ghost" Tax Preparers any time of the year. A ghost preparer is someone who is paid to prepare a tax return, but does not sign it or include other necessary information to identify themselves. ADOR warns taxpayers that if a preparer won't state their name on the tax return, it could be a possible scam.

By not providing the required information, it will appear that the return was self-prepared, which benefits the ghost tax preparer by staying under the radar. A ghost preparer may promise a larger refund and charge fees based on a percentage of the refund, which is prohibited. It is also a red flag potentially indicating a frightening array of problems. The preparer may ask the client to pay them in cash or not provide a receipt for services. They may file the return without your consent or alter the return after providing a completed copy. Often, they will use incorrect information to generate a larger refund, claiming false dependents, false expenses, deductions, credits, etc. Even worse, the ghost preparer may divert your funds into their bank account and then disappear.

By law, anyone who prepares or assists in preparing federal and state tax returns for compensation must have a valid 2024 Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN) and renew their PTIN with the IRS for 2025. Paid tax preparers are required to sign and include their PTIN on the paper tax returns they prepare. For electronically filed returns, the preparer must list their name and PTIN and sign electronically.

The Department of Revenue advises taxpayers that it is important to ask questions and carefully review their tax returns. Ultimately, the taxpayer is responsible for what is filed, regardless of who prepared the return. Tips for taxpayers:

- Verify that the preparer has signed the return and include their PTIN before you sign it.
- Check if the preparer is available year-round to explain how the return was prepared in the event of an examination.
- Confirm any additional costs for service prior to preparation. Ask any questions before signing and filing.
- Ask the preparer to explain deductions, credits, and wages claimed.
- Ensure the tax preparer provides you with a copy of the entire return, including schedules, if there are itemized deductions or credits.
- Carefully review the tax return before submitting, ensure numbers are correct, and schedules add up to source documents.

ADOR recommends taxpayers with concerns about their tax preparer should report it to the Department at <https://azdor.gov/contact-us/report-tax-fraud>.



We will be closed Tuesday thru Thursday, December 24- 26, for Christmas.

Business Owners: Please watch for AZDOR TPT Annual License Renewal and Annual Business Update Letters/Emails. Please complete them online or bring these letters in to us so we can get these fees paid on time.

### Sedillo and Associates, LLC Updates

Due to the volume of 2023 tax returns that were never picked up and not paid for, payment will now be expected at time of paperwork drop-off. This is not the way I like to do business, however, it appears times have changed and this change is necessary.

The cost for extra paper copies of prior and current year tax returns will remain at \$25 per year.

Due to increased postage costs, it will now be an additional \$10 to mail your tax return to you starting in the 2025 tax season.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued business.



### HOW S&A REFERRALS WORK

- When you refer a person and that person completes their taxes with us, you will receive your \$25 credit on your taxes the following year.
- One \$25 referral credit per person, per household (if you refer someone and they come to us and bring their significant other, or their child – that is still just one referral).
- Referrals do not typically apply to someone living in your household (up to Corinne's discretion).
- The person your refer **MUST** complete their taxes with us and pay their invoice due to receive your \$25 referral credit.
- There is a maximum of \$50 referral credits per year. If you refer more than two people per year (which we truly appreciate!), your credits will be held for the following year.
- Credits cannot be transferred to others.





## Ice Cube Tray Chocolates

### Ice Cube Tray Chocolates

You've gotta try making these customizable homemade chocolate candies as a food gift this holiday season.

By: Colleen Weeden <https://www.bhg.com/recipe/ice-cube-tray-chocolates/>

**Prep Time:** 20 mins **Yield:** 12 to 16 chocolates

### Ingredients

- 8 ounces semisweet, bittersweet, white, or milk chocolate, chopped
- ¼ cup desired fillings, such as nut or cookie butter, dulce de leche, chocolate-hazelnut spread, halved or quartered caramels, and/or cookie pieces
- Sprinkles (optional)

### Directions

1. Place 5 oz. of the chocolate in a small bowl. Microwave 45 to 60 seconds or until melted and a thermometer registers 113°F for semisweet or bittersweet chocolate or 104°F for milk chocolate, stirring every 15 seconds. If needed, continue to microwave in 5- to 10-second intervals to reach the correct temperature. Stir in remaining 3 oz. chocolate. Stir vigorously 2 minutes or until completely smooth and thermometer registers 88°F for semisweet or bittersweet chocolate or 85°F for milk chocolate. If small pieces of chocolate remain, continue to microwave in 5-second intervals, stirring after each until smooth.
2. If desired, add some sprinkles to each compartment in the ice cube tray. Spoon half of the melted chocolate into the compartments. Spoon or press 1 tsp. desired filling into each compartment. Spoon remaining melted chocolate over fillings. If desired, top with additional fillings and/or drizzle with melted chocolate of a contrasting color. Let stand 2 hours or until set.
3. To serve, twist ice cube trays slightly to loosen chocolates. Remove from ice cube tray.

### Marbled Chocolates

Prepare as directed in Step 1. Omit fillings. In a small bowl microwave 2 oz. chopped white baking chocolate 30 seconds or until melted, stirring once. Spoon half of the melted semisweet chocolate into ice cube tray. Top with melted white chocolate and remaining semisweet chocolate. Using a toothpick, swirl melted chocolates slightly. Let stand as directed.

### To Store

Remove chocolates from ice cube tray. Place in an airtight container and store at room temperature up to 1 week or freeze up to 3 months.

### Nutrition Facts

123 Calories 8g Fat 13g Carbs 2g Protein

## DECEMBER 2024

Dec 1

National Cookie Cutter Day

Dec 5

International Ninja Day



Dec 11

UNICEF Birthday

Dec 13

National Horse Day

Dec 15

International Tea Day

Dec 20

Go Caroling Day

Dec 21

World Snowboard Day



Dec 26

National Thank You Note Day

Dec 28

Nat'l Chocolate Candy Day

Dec 31

World Peace Mediation Day

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FORMS OF  
PAYMENT NOW  
ACCEPTED:

- VISA
- MASTERCARD
- AMERICAN EXPRESS
- DISCOVER CARD
- ZELLE
- CASH
- PERSONAL CHECK



## Christmas Word Scramble

1. Groceos \_\_\_\_\_
2. Naclorig \_\_\_\_\_
3. Rats \_\_\_\_\_
4. Scunttshe \_\_\_\_\_
5. Porduhl \_\_\_\_\_
6. Naast \_\_\_\_\_
7. Skagceap \_\_\_\_\_
8. Dressephh \_\_\_\_\_
9. Gramen \_\_\_\_\_
10. Galen \_\_\_\_\_
11. Limesotte \_\_\_\_\_
12. Vaniyitt \_\_\_\_\_
13. Gotscink \_\_\_\_\_
14. Virasou \_\_\_\_\_
15. Traweh \_\_\_\_\_
16. Gisehl \_\_\_\_\_
17. Wamsonn \_\_\_\_\_
18. Ejuss \_\_\_\_\_
19. Stranneom \_\_\_\_\_
20. Scamsthir \_\_\_\_\_

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We Love Referrals!