

Tax Information Publication



You may not know that you owe... Take advantage of tax amnesty and save money!

But I pay my taxes!

Did you overlook a tax?

Did you pay tax on all Internet and catalog purchases?

Did you forget to file?

Did you file but underpay?

Did you think someone else paid?

Florida Tax Amnesty
July 1 - October 31, 2003

- Pay NO penalty
- Pay REDUCED interest now
- Avoid HIGHER interest later

Although most business owners do their best to comply with all revenue laws, mistakes do occur. Sometimes taxes are overlooked.

Did you know that you or your business may owe intangible tax on stocks, bonds, or mutual funds?

Did you know that you are responsible for paying tax on Internet and out-of-state purchases?

Did you know that you may owe "use tax" on computers or equipment purchased for your business? See page 2 for "use tax" example.

If you have tax liabilities, take advantage of tax amnesty now. Otherwise, you are more likely to be the focus of enforcement actions after amnesty.

Florida tax amnesty is a one-time opportunity for you to voluntarily pay overdue taxes with no penalty and reduced interest.

After tax amnesty ends, the Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) will use improved methods to identify those who may owe taxes.

Inside this TIP:

- How do I save money on interest?
- Am I eligible?
- What taxes are eligible?
- How do I get tax amnesty?
- What if I still have questions?

• • Tax amnesty applies to tax, penalty, and interest that were due on or before June 30, 2003.

- ✓ FIND Complete information
- ✓ FIND Tax Amnesty Agreement form
- ✓ FIND File and pay online

all at www.myflorida.com/dor

How do I save money on interest?

Pay reduced interest during tax amnesty.

Take advantage of tax amnesty now and avoid higher interest rates to come.

On November 1, 2003, interest on unpaid tax increases from the current 4 percent to 8 percent. Save money by taking advantage of tax amnesty.

Pay no penalty and only 1/2 the interest due, if you:

- are reporting a tax liability that the Department of Revenue did not know about,
- are filing a late return,
- haven't registered to collect, report, and remit tax,
- · are responding to a Letter of Inquiry, or
- are responding to a self-audit request.

Pay no penalty and only 3/4 of the interest due, if you are responding to a DOR bill, audit, or other assessment.

Am I eligible?

You or your business are eligible if your liability for tax, penalty, or interest was due on or before June 30, 2003, and:

- You complete a Tax Amnesty Agreement.
- Your liability is not already covered by a settlement or payment agreement.
- You are not under criminal investigation for violating a Florida revenue law.
- You have not been convicted of violating a Florida revenue law.

What taxes are eligible?

- · sales and use tax
- corporate income tax
- intangible personal property tax for individuals or corporations
- estate tax
- fuel taxes state and local
- gross receipts tax
- communications services tax

Florida taxes administered by DOR are eligible, except unemployment tax and the Miami-Dade Lakebelt mitigation fee. Other taxes include: government leaseholds; insurance premium tax; pollutants tax (wholesale/importers and refiners); severance tax (gas and sulfur, oil production, and solid minerals); solid waste and surcharge fees; oyster surcharge; secondhand dealer fees; and local option taxes administered by DOR. For details on local taxes that may be included in amnesty, go to www.myflorida.com/dor/amnesty/faqs.html

"Use tax" example:

On March 1, 2002, Sonny's Sign Shop purchased a laminator from a dealer in Georgia for \$5,000. The Georgia dealer did not collect sales tax on the sale. Sonny did not realize that he had to pay Florida "use tax" on the purchase. The Florida 6% tax due on the machine is \$300. (Sonny's Sign Shop is in a county with no local option taxes.)

By the time Sonny realized his error on July 1, 2003, he owed \$150 in penalty and \$19 in interest. If he enters into an amnesty agreement and files and pays the tax due during the amnesty period, he will get all of the penalty and 1/2 of the interest waived.

How do I get tax amnesty?

If you are eligible, take one of the following actions before October 31, 2003:



File and pay online

www.myflorida.com/dor

Completing a Tax Amnesty Agreement is part of the online payment process.

Or complete a **Tax Amnesty Agreement form** and the **appropriate tax forms** and send them with your **payment** to:

Tax Amnesty
Florida Department of Revenue
Post Office Box 5800
Tallahassee FL 32314-5800

You <u>must</u> complete a Tax Amnesty Agreement to participate!

What if I still have questions?

Read Frequently Asked Questions online at:

www.myflorida.com/dor

- Contact your tax professional.
- You may call Taxpayer Services at 1-800-352-3671 (in Florida only) or 850-488-6800 (Monday through Friday 8 A.M. to 7 P.M. ET).
- Hearing or speech impaired persons may call the TDD line at 1-800-367-8331 or 850-922-1115.
- Or visit your nearest Florida Department of Revenue (DOR) service center.

If you need forms:

- Current and prior year forms are available online at: www.myflorida.com/dor/amnesty/forms
- Current year forms may be ordered from the DOR Distribution Center.
- Fax your forms request to the DOR Distribution Center at 850-922-2208.
- Call the DOR Distribution Center at 850-488-8422.
- Mail your forms request to: DOR Distribution Center, Florida Department of Revenue, 168A Blountstown Highway, Tallahassee FL 32304-3702.



Tax Amnesty Florida Department of Revenue Post Office Box 5800 Tallahassee FL 32314-5800

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Florida Department of Revenue

Save money with tax amnesty! www.myflorida.com/dor

If you file Florida tax returns for multiple business locations, please share the information contained in this TIP with your associates.

Take advantage of tax amnesty
July 1, 2003 through October 31, 2003