RECORD RETENTION GUIDELINES

For Business



Accounting Records

Auditors' report & annual financial statements	Permanently
Bank statements and deposit slips	
Canceled checks:	y cars
- Fixed assets	Permanently
- General	
- Payroll	
- Taxes (payroll related)	
- Taxes (income)	
Cash disbursements journal	
Cash receipts journal	
Chart of accounts	
Correspondence (general)	
Correspondence (general) Correspondence (routine) with customers and/or vendors	
Deeds, mortgages, bills of sale	
Electronic payment records	7 years
Employee expense records	
Fixed asset records (invoices, canceled checks,	years
depreciation schedules)	Down on outly
Freight bills and bills of lading	Permanentry
General journal	
General ledger	
Internal reports (miscellaneous)	
Inventory listings and tags	
Invoices: Sales to customers/ credit memos	
Notes receivable ledgers and schedules	
Notes payable ledgers and schedules	
Patent/Trademark and related papers	
Payroll journal	
Petty cash vouchers	•
Plant cost vouchers	
Production and sales reports	
Purchases	
Purchase journal	•
Purchase orders	
Receiving sheets	
Requisitions	
Sales commission reports	3 years
Sales or work orders	
Scrap and salvage records (inventories, sales, etc.)	
Stockroom withdrawal forms	1 year
Subsidiary ledgers (accounts receivable,	
accounts payable, equipment)	
Time cards and daily time reports	
Training manuals	Permanently
Trial balance - year end	Permanently
Vouchers for payments to vendors, employees, etc.	
(includes allowances and reimbursement of employees,	
officers, etc., for travel and entertainment expenses)	7 years
Insurance Records	
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Accident reports and settled claims	
Fire inspection and safety reports	
Insurance policies (still in effect)	Permanently

Legal Documents

Articles of incorporation and bylaws	Permanently
Buy-sell agreements	Permanently
Capitol stock and bond records: ledgers,	
transfer registers, stubs showing options, etc	Permanently
Contracts and leases (still in effect)	Permanently
Contracts and leases (expired)	7 years
Employment agreements	7 years
Legal correspondence	Permanently
Minutes	Permanently
Option records (expired)	7 years
Partnership agreements	Permanently
Property appraisals by outside appraisers	Permanently
Stock certificates and ledgers	Permanently

Tax Records

IRS or state adjustments	Permanently
Payroll tax returns	7 years
Property records, including costs, depreciation reserves,	•
year-end trial balances, depreciation schedules,	
blueprints and plans	Permanently
Sales and use tax returns	Permanently
Tax returns and work sheets, revenue agents' reports,	
and other documents relating to determination	
of income tax liability, canceled checks	
for tax payments	Permanently

Personnel Records

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Child labor certificates and notices	3 years
Employment application(from date of termination) Employment eligibility verification (I-9 form)	3 years
(from date of termination)	3 years
Garnishments	7 years
Help wanted ads and job opening notices	2 years
Personnel files (from date of termination)	7 years
Records of job injuries causing loss of work	5 years
Safety: chemical and toxic exposure records	30 years
Union agreements and individual employee contracts	•
(from date of termination)	3 years
Withholding statements.	7 years

Employee Benefit Plan Records

Actuarial reports	Permanently
Allocation and compliance testing	7 years
Brokerage/ Trustee statements supporting investments	7 years
Financial statements	Permanently
General ledger and journals	Permanently
Information returns (form5500)	Permanently
internal Revenue Service/ Department of Labor	
correspondence	Permanently
Participant communications related to	
distributions, terminations, beneficiaries	7 years
Plan and trust agreements	Permanently

These Record Retention Guidelines provide a general guideline for the retention of many records, but the specific holding periods for any record retention policy should be given careful scrutiny by management and legal advisors in light of any pending investigations, regulated industry requirements or contract covenants. In addition to these general guidelines, each business should consider any industry standards which may affect the holding period of records due to the unusual legal circumstances.

RECORD RETENTION GUIDELINES





Bank Statements	Three years
Canceled checks	Three years
Charitable contributions	Keep with applicable tax return.
Credit card purchase receipts	Discard after purchase appears on credit card statement if not needed for warranties, merchandise returns or taxes.
Credit card statements	Discard after payment appears on credit card statement.
Employee business expense reports	Keep with applicable tax return.
Health insurance policies	Keep until policy expires, lapses or is replaced.
Home and property insurance.	Keep until policy expires, lapses or is replaced.
Income tax returns	Seven years
Investment sale & purchase confirmation records	Discard sale confirmation records when the transactions are correctly reflected on the monthly statement. Keep purchase confirmation records three to six years after the investment is sold as evidence of cost.
Life insurance	Keep until there is no chance of reinstatement. Discard premium receipts when notices reflect payment.
Medical records	Permanently
Medical expense records	Keep with applicable tax return if deducted.
Military papers	Permanently (may be required for possible veterans benefits)
Individual retirement account records	Permanently
Retirement plan statements	Three to six years. Keep year-end statements permanently.
Passports	Keep until expiration.
Pay stubs	One year. Discard all but final, cumulative pay stubs for the year.
Personal certificates (Birth/Death, Marriage/Divorce, Religious ceremonies)	Permanently
Real estate documents	Keep three to six years after property has been disposed of and taxes have been paid.
Residential records (copies of purchase-related documents, annual mortgage statements, receipts for improvements and copies of rental leases/receipts)	·
Social security statements	Discard when current records of payments into the Social Security System are received.
Warranties and receipts	Discard expired warranties. Use judgement when discarding receipts
Will	Keep current Will permanently. Keep until rendered obsolete (by a new version).

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