

## 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.

**Local businesses help  
grow our economy!**



*Neighborhood Preservation 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!*

The City of Ventura Neighborhood Preservation Section is available to assist you in understanding the various codes and obtaining compliance. Contact us at 805/658.4711.

There are many ways to get involved to enhance the quality of life in our community. Participate in your Community Council – attend public meetings to connect with neighbors, volunteer, raise issues, and make a difference in your neighborhood!

**Find Your Neighborhood Community Council**  
[www.cityofventura.net/involved/communitycouncils](http://www.cityofventura.net/involved/communitycouncils)

**Volunteer Ventura!**  
[www.cityofventura.net/volunteer](http://www.cityofventura.net/volunteer)

CITY OF  
**VENTURA**  
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION  
[www.cityofventura.net/np](http://www.cityofventura.net/np)

CITY OF  
**VENTURA**  
[www.cityofventura.net](http://www.cityofventura.net)  
Building & Safety Division  
P.O. Box 99, Ventura, CA, 93002

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## INFORMATION & RULES ABOUT

# BUSINESS LICENSE TAX

IN THE CITY OF VENTURA

- Businesses
- Home Occupation



CITY OF  
**VENTURA**  
NEIGHBORHOOD PRESERVATION  
[www.cityofventura.net/np](http://www.cityofventura.net/np)

501 Poli St., Room 117, Ventura • 805/658.4711

**Q: Why does the City of Ventura have rules about Business Licenses?**

**A:** 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.



**Q: What is a Business License?**

**A:** The 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 at: [www.cityofventura.net/businesslicense](http://www.cityofventura.net/businesslicense) or in person at the Business License Office (City Hall, Room 107).

**Q: Who is required to have a license?**

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

**Q: How long is the license good for?**

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

**Q: How much will a Business License cost?**

**A:** 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 license office at 805/658.4773.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

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

**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 License 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. Contact the business license office for more information.



**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. See our website for further details: [www.cityofventura.net/np](http://www.cityofventura.net/np) or call our office at 805/658.4711.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- **City of Ventura Business Tax Office:**  
[www.cityofventura.net/businesslicense](http://www.cityofventura.net/businesslicense)  
(Finance & Technology)  
805/658.4715
- **City of Ventura Municipal Code:**  
[www.cityofventura.net/cm/municipal-code](http://www.cityofventura.net/cm/municipal-code)
- **State of California:**  
[www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)