LICENSEDRENTAL.COM

Guntersville vacation rental checklist

Marshall County, Alabama | Rules checked November 5, 2026

Scan for the latest version

Guntersville requires a renting and leasing business license plus a $20 yearly permit for each short-term rental (under 30 days) in residential zones, with an emergency contact who responds within an hour, two guests plus two per bedroom, parking on site, written notice to neighbors, and no events. Lodgings tax is 12%.

The rules apply only in residential zones, not in districts where commercial lodging is allowed. Fines are $500 for a first violation and $1,000 after.

More than two 32-gallon garbage cans costs extra.

Airbnb's Alabama tax article lists the state tax and the local taxes the state administers. Taxes filed with a city, a county, or Avenu Insights may not be collected by the platform, so ask what it collects and file the rest yourself.

Licensing steps

STATE OF ALABAMA

- [ ] **Register for the lodgings tax**
  Create an account at My Alabama Taxes (MAT) and register for state lodgings tax, plus any local lodgings taxes the state administers for your county and city. Cities that collect their own tax need a separate account with the city.
  My Alabama Taxes: https://myalabamataxes.alabama.gov/
- [ ] **File by the 20th**
  Returns are due by the 20th of the following month. Small filers can ask (before February 20) to file quarterly, twice a year, or yearly. Paying on time earns a small discount (5% of the first $100 of tax, 2% after).
- [ ] **Know what the platform collects**
  Under Act 2024-334, Airbnb, VRBO, and other booking platforms collect the state and local lodgings taxes on their bookings unless your contract says you remit. You still owe tax on direct bookings, and the law adds a yearly report of every unit rented more than 14 days.
- [ ] **Keep filing once you register**
  If every booking goes through a platform that collects all your state and local lodgings taxes, you may not need your own account. But if you take direct bookings, or the platform doesn't collect one of your local taxes (often the ones filed with a city, a county, or Avenu), register and file it yourself. Once registered, file every period, even a $0 return, and report platform-collected sales as a deduction. Some county offices ask owners to keep their own account and file monthly even when the platform pays, so ask yours.
- [ ] **Then your county and city**
  Local business licenses, rental permits, and zoning rules are where Alabama towns differ most. Pick your area.

MARSHALL COUNTY, ALABAMA

- [ ] **Register for the county lodgings tax**
  File the 1% county tax with the state through My Alabama Taxes, along with the 5% state tax.
- [ ] **Then your city**
  Pick your area.

CITY OF GUNTERSVILLE

- [ ] **Get the business license and permit**
  Apply with an emergency contact, the names and addresses of adjacent residential owners, and your bedroom count. Send proof of vacation rental insurance within 30 days.
  Guntersville short-term rental info: https://guntersvilleal.org/short-term-rental-info/
- [ ] **Notify your neighbors**
  Give adjacent residential owners written notice with your and your contact's phone numbers, the city's violation line, and the maximum guests.
- [ ] **Post the rules**
  Post the ordinance, permit, contact information, and house rules, and have guests sign that they received them.
- [ ] **Register for lodgings tax**
  Total lodgings tax here is 12%. The city's 6% is filed with Avenu Insights; the county 1% and state 5% go through My Alabama Taxes. Airbnb collects the state 5% and any state-administered local tax on its bookings. Ask your platform whether it also collects the other local taxes, and file anything it doesn't (and all direct bookings) by the 20th of each month.

House rules for guests

Maximum guests: 2 + 2 per bedroom

Parking: On the property, off the street
No RVs, boats, or trailers on the street or in front of the house.

Events: None allowed

Who to contact

City Hall: 256-571-7560
ADOR Sales and Use Tax Division: 334-242-1490

Official sources

Alabama Department of Revenue: State lodgings tax. https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/tax-types/lodgings-tax/

Alabama Department of Revenue: Lodgings tax FAQs. https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/faqs/lodgings-tax/

Alabama Department of Revenue: Alabama Tourism Tax Protection Act (Act 2024-334)-
. https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/alabama-tourism-tax-protection/

Avalara MyLodgeTax: Alabama vacation rental tax guide-
. https://www.avalara.com/mylodgetax/en/resources/vacation-rental-tax-guides/alabama.html

Alabama Department of Revenue: Local lodgings tax rates report (November 2026)-
. https://www.revenue.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/LLreport.pdf

City of Guntersville (Municode): Code section.
https://library.municode.com/al/guntersville/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=COOR_CH13OFMIPR_ARTIXRESHRMREDWREDI

City of Guntersville: Short term rental info. https://guntersvilleal.org/short-term-rental-info/

City of Guntersville: Ordinance 1097, short-term rentals (December 3, 2018)-
. https://guntersvilleal.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ORD-1097.pdf