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Unincorporated El Paso County vacation rental checklist

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El Paso County, Colorado | Rules checked November 8, 2026

Unincorporated El Paso County has no short-term rental license or ordinance: you can rent your main house without a county permit. Renting an accessory building needs zoning approval, and advertising for weddings or retreats can break the county's event-center rules.

Licensing steps

STATE OF COLORADO

- [ ] **Get a state sales tax license**
  If you rent rooms or a home for stays under 30 days, Colorado requires a sales tax license from the Department of Revenue. Platforms like Airbnb collect the state and state-administered taxes on their bookings; you file for anything booked directly.
  MyBiz Colorado: https://mybiz.colorado.gov/
- [ ] **Check for home-rule city taxes**
  Many cities and mountain towns collect their own sales and lodging taxes. Platforms aren't required by the state to collect these, so you may need a separate city tax license and returns.
- [ ] **Get your county or city rental license**
  Most Colorado mountain counties and towns, and Denver, require a short-term rental license or permit, often with an inspection, an occupancy limit, posted information, and a local responder. Pick your area for the rules.

EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

- [ ] **Then your town or area**
  Cities and towns make their own rental rules inside their limits; the county's rules apply only outside them. Pick your area.

EL PASO COUNTY (UNINCORPORATED AREAS)

- [ ] **Check what you're renting**
  Renting the main house needs no county permit. If guests will stay in a guest house, barn apartment, or other accessory building, ask the Planner of the Day about zoning approval first.
- [ ] **Taxes on each stay**
  Stays under 30 days owe 2.9% state plus El Paso County and any special district sales taxes. Airbnb and other platforms collect the state and state-administered taxes on their bookings; for direct bookings, file with the Colorado Department of Revenue. Platforms collect all of these. Check your HOA covenants, which may ban short-term rentals.

House rules for guests

Good neighbor guidelines: Recommended

Driveway parking, wildlife-proof trash, a local contact, and checking fire restrictions.

Who to contact

Planner of the Day: 719-520-6944
Sheriff (noise, parking): 719-390-5555

Official sources

Colorado Department of Revenue: Sales & Use Tax Topics: Rooms & Accommodations-. https://tax.colorado.gov/sales-use-tax-topics-rooms-accommodations

Colorado Department of Revenue: Sales Tax Guide and Colorado Sales/Use Tax Rates (DR 1002)-. https://tax.colorado.gov/sites/tax/files/Sales%2011.pdf

El Paso County Planning and Community Development: Short-Term Rentals. https://planningdevelopment.elpasoco.com/short-term-rentals/