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Crestone vacation rental checklist

Saguache County, Colorado | Rules checked November 8, 2026

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Inside Crestone's town limits, each short-term rental needs a $175 yearly business license and a town STR permit, a guest parking plan, a notarized life-safety inspection each year, and a local representative living in the 81131 ZIP code. Up to 3 guests per bedroom and 6 per home.

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.

SAGUACHE 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.

TOWN OF CRESTONE

- [ ] **Prepare the parking plan and inspection**
  Draw a guest parking plan that meets the residential zone rules, and have the life-safety inspection done on the town's form and notarized, dated within 60 days before you apply or renew.

- [ ] **Apply for the license and STR permit**
  Send the business license application with proof of property and liability insurance, your Colorado sales tax license number, and your local representative, and pay $175. You also need a current STR permit from the Town Clerk.
  Crestone business license application:
  https://townofcrestone.gov/uploads/crestone-business-license-application-2026-2027.pdf

- [ ] **Renew by June 1**
  Licenses run July 1 to June 30. Late renewals pay 25% extra for the first 15 days and 50% after. Post your representative's contact inside and outside the home.

- [ ] **Taxes on each stay**
  Stays under 30 days owe 2.9% state plus Saguache County and town sales and lodging 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. The town requires you to collect and remit lodging and sales tax on all rental income.

Fees

$175 a year per rental

Business license (each STR property, yearly)	**$175**
Late renewal	**25% of the fee (first 15 days), then 50%**

Inspection checklist

- [ ] **Notarized life-safety inspection.** On the town form, within 60 days before renewal.

Who to contact

Town Clerk: 719-256-4313
Town Clerk email: clerk@townofcrestone.gov

Crestone asks for drawings with your application.
Make the site sketch, floor plans, and evacuation maps to scale from your measurements at FireEscapePlan.com.

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

Town of Crestone: Business License Application 2026-2027-
. https://townofcrestone.gov/uploads/crestone-business-license-application-2026-2027.pdf