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Fort Lauderdale vacation rental checklist

Broward County, Florida | Rules checked November 4, 2026

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Fort Lauderdale requires a vacation rental Certificate of Compliance for every rental, issued after a code inspection: $880 to register up to four units on one parcel, including the first inspection. Up to 2 guests per legal bedroom, and fines of $1,000 a day for renting without a valid certificate.

> Code Chapter 15, Article X, vacation rentals (Ordinance C-26-39, amendments approved September 15, 2026). Fees are set by Resolution 17-81.

Licensing steps

STATE OF FLORIDA

- [ ] **Get the DBPR vacation rental license**
  Apply online to the Division of Hotels and Restaurants as a Vacation Rental – Condominium or Vacation Rental – Dwelling, listing every unit address. Approval usually takes one to two business days and the license is emailed. There is no inspection before it's issued, but DBPR can inspect afterward. Post the license (or a copy) in the unit.
  DBPR vacation rental licensing guide: https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/hotels-restaurants/licensing/vrtsp-guide/

- [ ] **Renew every year by your district's date**
  Licenses renew on a set date for each DBPR district. Brevard, Volusia, Indian River, St. Lucie, Orange, Osceola, Lake, and Seminole (District 4) renew April 1, with the half-year rate from October 1. Duval, Nassau, Clay, Flagler, St. Johns, Levy, Alachua, Marion, and the rest of District 5 renew June 1, with the half-year rate from December 1. Bay, Walton, Okaloosa, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Gulf, Franklin, and the rest of District 6 also renew June 1. Martin, Palm Beach, and Broward (District 2) renew December 1, with the half-year rate from June 1. Miami-Dade and Monroe (District 1) renew October 1, with the half-year rate from April 1. Collier, Lee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Manatee, and the rest of District 7 renew December 1, with the half-year rate from June 1. Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Polk, Hernando, Citrus, and the rest of District 3 renew February 1, with the half-year rate from August 1. If you won't rent until after the next renewal date, waiting to apply can save paying twice.

- [ ] **Register for Florida sales tax if you collect rent yourself**
  Whoever receives the rent collects and pays the tax. Airbnb and VRBO collect Florida's 6% tax and the county surtax on bookings made through them, so if every booking goes through them you don't need your own sales tax account. If you take direct bookings, or a property manager collects rent for you, you or the manager register with the Department of Revenue and file. You stay responsible if a platform or manager doesn't pay it.
  Florida Department of Revenue: https://floridarevenue.com/

- [ ] **Meet the state fire safety rule**
  Florida Administrative Code 69A-43.018 asks rental homes for smoke alarms powered by the house wiring plus one in every bedroom, NFPA 10 extinguishers, one hour of battery emergency lighting to the main exit, a posted floor diagram showing the primary and secondary exits, and fire safety information for guests.
  Florida rental fire safety checklist (FireEscapePlan.com)-
  : https://fireescapeplan.com/guides/florida-vacation-rental-fire-safety-requirements

- [ ] **Balcony inspection for taller buildings**
  Buildings three or more stories tall must file a Certificate of Balcony Inspection with DBPR every three years. Condo units are exempt when the balconies and stairs are common elements and you give DBPR proof.

- [ ] **Keep up the state operating rules**
  Keep the unit clean, safe, and free of pests; change sheets and pillowcases between guests or weekly; use cribs that meet federal safety standards; and sanitize dishes between guests or post DBPR's exception notice.
- [ ] **Then the county and town**
  Most rules that affect day-to-day operation, like registration, inspections, occupancy, and parking, are set by the county and the town. Pick your town for its full checklist.

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

- [ ] **Register for the tourist tax if you take direct bookings**
  Whoever receives the rent collects the tax. If any guests pay you directly, register with the Tourist Development Tax Section and file on the schedule it assigns (monthly to annually). Returns are due the 1st and late after the 20th, even when you owe nothing; late returns cost at least $50.
  Broward tourist development tax: https://www.broward.org/recordstaxestreasury/TouristDevelopmentTax
- [ ] **Get a Broward County business tax receipt**
  The county says tourist tax registrants may also need a county local business tax receipt, and most city rental applications ask for one.
  Broward County business tax (BTExpress): https://county-taxes.net/broward/btexpress
- [ ] **Then your city**
  Most Broward beach cities require a vacation rental license, an inspection, and a local responsible party. Pick your city for its checklist.

CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

- [ ] **Get the state license and county accounts**
  Every Florida vacation rental needs the DBPR license. Broward cities also ask for a Broward County business tax receipt and, if you take any direct bookings, a Broward tourist tax account. See the Florida and Broward County pages.
- [ ] **Apply through LauderBuild**
  Upload your DBPR license, Department of Revenue certificate, Broward business tax receipt and tourist tax account, Sunbiz record if a company owns it, and a lease that includes the city's required terms and a parking sketch or photo. Missing items must be sent within 10 business days.
  Fort Lauderdale vacation rental registration:
  https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Government/Departments/Community-Services/Community-Enhancement-and-Compliance/Administra
- [ ] **Pass the safety inspection**
  A code officer calls within three business days of payment to schedule. A failed inspection gets a reinspection within 10 days; the certificate is issued within three business days of passing.
- [ ] **Renew before the certificate expires**
  Renewals take 10 to 12 business days in August and September. A complete, on-time renewal protects you from fines while the city processes it; accounts not renewed are closed six months after expiration.

City vacation rental fees

$880 to register (up to four units on one parcel, first inspection included), plus $100 for each reinspection or missed inspection. Renewal fees are set by Resolution 17-81.

Registration, up to 4 units on one folio Includes the first inspection.	**$880**
Safety inspection, reinspection, or no-show	**$100 each**
Change of rental agent	**$50**

Who to contact

Vacation rental program: VacationRental@fortlauderdale.gov
Complaints (24/7): 1-800-685-7453
Tourist Development Tax Section: 954-357-8455

Official sources

Florida DBPR, Division of Hotels and Restaurants: Vacation rental and timeshare project licensing guide-
. https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/hotels-restaurants/licensing/vrtsp-guide/

Florida Department of Revenue (Florida Administrative Code): Rule 12A-1.061, sales tax on transient rentals (registration in part (9)).
https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=12A-1.061

State Fire Marshal (Florida Administrative Code): Rule 69A-43.018, fire safety for one- and two-family homes licensed as public lodging.
https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=69A-43.018

Florida DBPR: Certificate of Balcony Inspection (DBPR HR 7020)-
. https://www2.myfloridalicense.com/hr/forms/documents/dbpr_hr_7020_certificate_of_balcony_inspection.pdf

Broward County Records, Taxes and Treasury: Tourist development tax. https://www.broward.org/recordstaxestreasury/TouristDevelopmentTax

City of Fort Lauderdale: Vacation rental registration.
https://www.fortlauderdale.gov/Government/Departments/Community-Services/Community-Enhancement-and-Compliance/Administrative-Services/Vacation-R

City of Fort Lauderdale: Vacation rental program.
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