LICENSEDRENTAL.COM

Unincorporated Osceola vacation rental checklist

Osceola County, Florida | Rules checked November 5, 2026

Scan for the latest version

In unincorporated Osceola (Celebration, ChampionsGate, Reunion, Four Corners, and more), short-term rentals are allowed only in Planned Developments inside the county's Short-Term Rental Overlay, such as STRPD and Commercial Tourist zoning. Where allowed, you need the DBPR license, a county short-term rental business tax receipt, and the 6% tourist tax.

> The overlay rules were recodified in 2025 (Ordinance 2025-10). We found no county occupancy, parking, or responsible-party rules; your HOA or resort usually has its own.

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.

OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA

- [ ] **Register for the tourist tax**
  Register each unit with the Osceola County Tax Collector and file the 6% every period, including platform bookings.
  Osceola tourist tax: https://osceolataxcollector.org/tourist-development-taxtes/
- [ ] **Then your area**
  Pick your area for its zoning rules.

OSCEOLA COUNTY (UNINCORPORATED AREAS)

- [ ] **Confirm your property is in the overlay**
  Check the county's Short-Term Rental Overlay map and your zoning. Outside the overlay, rent for longer than the short-term threshold.
  Osceola STRPD zoning: https://www.osceola.org/My-Property/Zoning-and-Land-Use/Zoning-Designation/STRPD
- [ ] **Get the state license and county tourist tax account**
  Every Florida vacation rental needs the DBPR license. Osceola County isn't contracted with Airbnb, VRBO, or any platform, so register with the Osceola County Tax Collector and file the 6% tourist tax yourself, platform bookings included.
- [ ] **Get the short-term rental business tax receipt**
  Apply with the Tax Collector and renew every year.

Who to contact

Zoning: 407-742-0200
Tax Collector: 407-742-4000
Tax Collector: 407-742-4000

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

Osceola County Tax Collector: Tourist development tax. https://osceolataxcollector.org/tourist-development-taxtes/

Osceola County: Short Term Rental Planned Development (STRPD)-
. https://www.osceola.org/My-Property/Zoning-and-Land-Use/Zoning-Designation/STRPD

Osceola County Tax Collector: Short-term local business tax receipt application information-
. https://osceolataxcollector.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Information-for-Completing-a-Short-Term-LBTR-application.pdf

Osceola County (Municode): Code section.
https://library.municode.com/fl/osceola_county/codes/land_development_code?nodeId=LAND_DEVELOPMENT_CODE_CH3PESIST_ART3.12OVDIDEST_3.