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Elon vacation rental checklist

Alamance County, North Carolina | Rules checked November 6, 2026

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We found no short-term rental zoning rules in Elon's code. Stays owe 6.75% sales tax + 6% occupancy tax (3% county + 3% city); Airbnb collects these on its bookings.

> We searched the town code in November 2026 and found no short-term rental rules. Demand peaks around Elon University move-in, family weekends, and graduation; confirm zoning with the town before you buy.

Licensing steps

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

- [ ] **Know who owes the tax**
  Whoever collects the rent reports the sales and occupancy tax: the platform, your rental agency, or you. Airbnb collects state and county sales tax and all local occupancy taxes on its bookings. If guests pay you directly, register with the Department of Revenue for sales tax and with your county or town for occupancy tax.
  NCDOR business registration: https://www.ncdor.gov/taxes-forms/business-registration
- [ ] **Use a written vacation rental agreement**
  The Vacation Rental Act covers owners and agents renting for vacation stays under 90 days. Have the guest accept a written agreement with the required notices, hold advance payments in a trust account, and keep the home fit and habitable with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- [ ] **Check your zoning**
  Towns can't require you to register a rental, but they can limit short-term rentals to certain zoning districts, require a zoning permit, and set parking, trash, and safety standards. Pick your area for the local rules.

ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

- [ ] **Then your city or area**
  Zoning rules and the occupancy tax depend on whether you're inside a city or town. Pick your area.

TOWN OF ELON

- [ ] **Taxes on each stay**
  Stays under 90 days owe 6.75% sales tax plus the local occupancy tax. Airbnb collects both on its bookings. If guests pay you directly, file sales tax with the Department of Revenue. Alamance County's 3% plus the city's 3% occupancy tax go on one county return, filed with Alamance County Finance by the 20th.
- [ ] **Ask about zoning**
  Ask the Town of Elon whether zoning allows a short-term rental at your address. Check your HOA rules too.

Official sources

UNC School of Government: Occupancy taxes and Airbnb. https://www.sog.unc.edu/node/374926

North Carolina General Assembly: Vacation Rental Act (G.S. Chapter 42A)-
. https://ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/HTML/ByChapter/Chapter_42A.html

UNC School of Government: Short-term rental regulations after Schroeder-
. https://www.sog.unc.edu/blogs/coates-canons/short-term-rental-regulations-after-schroeder-0

Alamance County Finance Department: Alamance County occupancy tax form and filing instructions (fillable worksheet).
https://www.alamancecountync.gov/Documents/Government/Departments%20Directory/Finance/Occupancy%20Tax/Form-and-Filing-Instructions-Updated-for-

Town of Elon (Municode): Code of ordinances. https://library.municode.com/nc/elon/codes/code_of_ordinances