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Unincorporated Catawba County vacation rental checklist

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

We found no short-term rental permit or zoning rules in the Catawba County code. Stays owe 7% sales tax plus any local occupancy tax; Airbnb collects these on its bookings.

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.

CATAWBA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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

CATAWBA COUNTY (UNINCORPORATED AREAS)

- [ ] **Taxes on each stay**
  Stays under 90 days owe 7% 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. Ask the county or town finance office whether a local occupancy tax applies and where to file it; we couldn't confirm the rate.
- [ ] **Check lake and HOA rules**
  Lake Norman neighborhoods often have their own rental rules. Ask Catawba County Planning about any permits for your site.

Who to contact

Catawba County Tax Office: 828-465-8414
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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

Airbnb: Occupancy tax collection and remittance by Airbnb in North Carolina. https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/2320
Catawba County (Municode): Code of ordinances. https://library.municode.com/nc/catawba_county/codes/code_of_ordinances