LICENSEDRENTAL.COM

Rockport vacation rental checklist

Aransas County, Texas | Rules checked November 8, 2026

Scan for the latest version

Rockport requires every short-term rental to register with the city before it operates (Ordinance 1928). Stays owe 6% state plus 7% city hotel tax; Airbnb collects only the state tax.

> The city's pages don't list the registration fee, inspection, or occupancy rules in Ordinance 1928. Ask the Building Department before you list.

Licensing steps

STATE OF TEXAS

- [ ] **Know who pays the hotel tax**
  Airbnb collects and pays the 6% state hotel tax on its bookings. If guests pay you directly or through a site that doesn't collect, register with the Comptroller and file the state tax yourself.
  Texas hotel occupancy tax: https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/hotel/
- [ ] **Register for local hotel tax**
  Your city (and in some places your county) charges its own hotel tax, filed with that city or county, not the state. Airbnb pays it only in the places on its list; everywhere else you register and file it yourself, even for Airbnb bookings.
- [ ] **Check your city's rules**
  Many Texas cities require a short-term rental permit or registration, and some require an inspection, a local contact, or posted rules. Outside city limits there's usually no permit, but deed restrictions and HOA rules often limit rentals. Pick your area for the local rules.

ARANSAS COUNTY, TEXAS

- [ ] **Then pick your city**
  Texas counties can't zone, so rental permits and the local hotel tax are set by each city. Pick your city, or the unincorporated page if you're outside city limits.
- [ ] **Hotel taxes on each stay**
  Stays of 29 nights or less owe the 6% state hotel tax, which Airbnb collects on its bookings. If guests pay you directly, file it with the Texas Comptroller. Aransas County reports a 7% county hotel tax; Airbnb doesn't collect it. County hotel taxes usually apply outside city limits; ask the County Treasurer whether it applies at your address and how to file.

CITY OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS

- [ ] **Register the rental**
  Register online through the city's short-term rental portal and upload the required documents before your first guest.
  Rockport STR portal: https://portal.deckard.com/tx-aransas-city_of_rockport-str-portal/
- [ ] **Hotel taxes on each stay**
  Stays of 29 nights or less owe the 6% state hotel tax, which Airbnb collects on its bookings. If guests pay you directly, file it with the Texas Comptroller. Rockport's 7% hotel tax applies to VRBO and Airbnb rentals and isn't on Airbnb's collection list, so register with the city and file it yourself.

Who to contact

Building Department: 361-790-1125
STR registration: str-registration@rockporttx.gov
Hotel tax (Judy Emerson): 361-556-5272

Official sources

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts: Hotel Occupancy Tax FAQs: Airbnb. https://comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/hotel/airbnb-faq.php

Airbnb: Occupancy tax collection and remittance by Airbnb in Texas. https://www.airbnb.com/help/article/2331

Texas Legislature: County zoning authority (Local Government Code ch. 231). https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Docs/LG/htm/LG.231.htm

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (data.texas.gov): Local Hotel Occupancy Tax Reporting 2025. https://data.texas.gov/d/er34-v24h

City of Rockport Building Department: Short-term rental registration news flash (April 4, 2025)-
. https://rockporttx.gov/m/newsflash/Home/Detail/739

City of Rockport: Hotel Motel Tax. https://rockporttx.gov/634/Hotel-Motel-Tax

City of Rockport Building Department: Short Term Rentals. https://rockporttx.gov/927/Short-Term-Rentals