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Belton vacation rental checklist

Bell County, Texas | Rules checked November 8, 2026

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Every short-term rental in Belton needs a yearly city permit, and a rental you don't live in can't be within 500 feet of another. Belton amended its rules in April 2026. Stays owe 6% state, 7% city, and 2% county hotel tax, reported quarterly to the city.

> Belton amended its short-term rental ordinance effective April 28, 2026 (Ordinance 2026-12). We couldn't read the amendment or the current fee schedule; ask Planning what changed.

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.

BELL COUNTY, TEXAS

- [ ] **Then your city**
  Texas counties can't zone, so rental rules come from the city your home is in. Outside city limits there's usually no permit, but deed restrictions and HOA rules may limit rentals. Pick your city.
- [ ] **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. Bell County reports a 2% hotel tax; Airbnb doesn't collect it. Around Lake Belton and Stillhouse Hollow outside city limits, ask the county how to file.

CITY OF BELTON

- [ ] **Apply on the city portal**
  Create an account and apply for each property, with an emergency contact. Renew yearly with proof you've paid the city hotel tax.
  Belton STR portal: https://str.beltontexas.gov/
- [ ] **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. Report income and pay Belton's 7% every quarter on the city portal, entering zero for empty months. Airbnb doesn't collect it. Bell County's 2% is filed separately.

Fees (2023 ordinance)

Annual permit	As adopted in 2023; check the current fee schedule	**$50**

Who to contact

Planning: 254-933-5812
Planning email: planning@beltontexas.gov

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 Belton Planning: Short-term Rental. https://www.beltontexas.gov/services/short-term_rental_.php

Killeen Daily Herald (republished by Government Resource Associates): Belton City Council approves permits for short-term rentals (Killeen Daily Herald, March 14, 2023)-. https://graarticles.optin.com/newsletter/awlist5581551/MTgxNjcxMjY=/belton-city-council-approves-permits-for-short-term-rentals.htm