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Katy vacation rental checklist

Harris County, Texas | Rules checked November 8, 2026

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Katy has required a short-term rental permit since 2023: $300 to apply, $200 to renew, and $50 for the inspection. The application needs a site plan showing parking and a floor plan showing exits and fire extinguishers. You pay Katy's hotel tax to the city yourself.

> We built this page from news coverage of the March 2023 ordinance; we couldn't read the city's own form. Katy reported a 1% hotel tax rate to the Comptroller for 2025, which doesn't match the 7% in the ordinance coverage; confirm the rate with the city.

> Katy spans Harris, Fort Bend and Waller counties. Noncompliance carries a $500 fine, and repeated violations can cost you the permit.

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.

HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

- [ ] **Then pick your city**
  Texas counties can't zone, so rental permits and the city hotel tax are set by each city. Pick your city, or the unincorporated page if there is one for your area.

- [ ] **Register with the county tax office for direct bookings**
  If guests pay you directly or through a site that doesn't collect, file the county and sports authority hotel taxes with the Harris County Tax Office every quarter (due April 30, July 31, October 31 and January 31). Fill out the New Owner Information form to open an account.
  Harris County hotel tax: https://www.hctax.net/specialpermittaxes/hotel

CITY OF KATY, TEXAS

- [ ] **Draw the site plan and floor plan**
  Prepare a site plan showing where guests park and a floor plan showing the exits and where the fire extinguishers are. Responders use them in an emergency.

- [ ] **Apply with the permits department**
  Submit the application with proof of general liability insurance and your hotel tax registration, and pay the $300 fee. After approval the city inspects the home ($50). Renew for $200.

- [ ] **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. Katy's 7% city hotel tax on short-term rentals is paid to the city by the owner; Airbnb doesn't collect it. In the Harris County part of Katy, Airbnb collects the 2% county and 2% sports authority taxes.

Fees

$350 the first year, $200 to renew

New application	**$300**
Inspection	**$50**
Renewal	**$200**

Inspection checklist

- [ ] **Fire extinguishers.** Shown on the floor plan.
- [ ] **City code inspection.** After the permit is approved.

House rules for guests

Events: No weddings or event venues

No tents or RVs: Tents, hammocks, RVs, campers and vehicles can't be rented

Complaints: Report to planning, the building official and fire marshal

Who to contact

Harris County Tax Office, hotel tax: 713-274-8151
Hotel tax email: hoteloccupancytax@tax.hctx.net

Katy asks for drawings with your application.
Make the site sketch, floor plans, and evacuation maps to scale from your measurements at FireEscapePlan.com.

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

Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector: Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax. https://www.hctax.net/specialpermittaxes/hotel

Katy Times: City passes ordinance for short-term rental properties (March 29, 2023)-
. https://www.katytimes.com/stories/city-passes-ordinance-for-short-term-rental-properties,32879

Community Impact: City of Katy to impose additional taxes, regulations for short-term rental properties (March 28, 2023).
https://communityimpact.com/houston/katy/housing-real-estate/2023/03/28/city-of-katy-to-impose-additional-taxes-regulations-for-short-term-rental-properties

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