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Corpus Christi vacation rental checklist

Nueces County, Texas | Rules checked November 8, 2026

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Corpus Christi requires a $250 yearly short-term rental registration. Rentals that aren't the owner's home are capped at 15% of a block face, and single-family zones on Padre and Mustang islands don't allow them. The application needs a floor plan showing sleeping areas, evacuation routes, and fire extinguishers. Airbnb collects the 6% state and 9% city hotel taxes.

> Operators without a permit have been cited ($500) and sent to municipal court. The city reports a 7% hotel tax to the Comptroller; Airbnb collects 9%, which likely includes a 2% venue tax.

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.

NUECES 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.

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS

- [ ] **Check your zoning and block**
  If the rental is your primary residence (Type 1), it's allowed anywhere except single-family zones on Padre and Mustang islands. If it isn't (Type 2), it's limited to 15% of the homes on the block face, first come, first served, and also not in single-family zones on the islands. Email the city to verify zoning.
- [ ] **Draw the floor plan**
  Sketch the floor plan showing the sleeping areas, the maximum number of guests, the evacuation route or routes, and where the fire extinguishers are.
- [ ] **Register online**
  Apply in the city's MUNIRevs portal with the owners and agents, the floor plan, a 24-hour contact who can respond to complaints, and a sworn statement that you carry insurance and have the extinguishers inspected every year. Pay $250 and renew every January. Stays must be at least 12 hours.
  Corpus Christi STR portal: https://corpuschristi.munirevs.com/

- [ ] **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. Airbnb collects Corpus Christi's 9% hotel tax. For direct bookings, register for hotel tax in the same MUNIRevs account and file with the city.

Fees

$250 a year

Annual STR registration	**$250**

Inspection checklist

- [ ] **Fire extinguishers.** Shown on the floor plan and inspected every year under the fire code.
- [ ] **Insurance.** Self-certified on the application.

Who to contact

STR registration: 361-826-3240
STR registration: STRregistration@CorpusChristiTX.gov
STR complaints: STRComplaints@CorpusChristiTX.gov

Corpus Christi 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

City of Corpus Christi Development Services: Short-Term Rentals (STR)-
. https://www.corpuschristitx.gov/department-directory/development-services/short-term-rentals-str/

KIII-TV 3News: City of Corpus Christi to tighten monitoring on short-term rentals.
https://www.kiiitv.com/article/news/local/city-of-corpus-christi-tighten-monitoring-on-short-term-rentals/503-424f29c8-77f3-417d-9fc2-670b8e4cec41

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