

Tips to Help Small Businesses Choose a Tax Preparer

When choosing a tax preparer, you want to consider your choice carefully, since you are responsible for your business taxes even if you use a preparer.



Here are a few tips to help:



Visit [IRS.gov/taxprodirectory](https://www.irs.gov/taxprodirectory) to search for tax return preparers in your area who currently hold professional credentials recognized by the IRS or who hold the IRS's Annual Filing Season Program record of completion.



Check the preparer's history with the Better Business Bureau or verify enrolled agent status on [IRS.gov/enrolledagentstatus](https://www.irs.gov/enrolledagentstatus).



Ask about any of the practitioner's fees up front and make sure the preparer is an authorized e-file provider using the nationwide database on [IRS.gov/efileproviderlocator](https://www.irs.gov/efileproviderlocator).



Ensure the preparer is available throughout the year to help you and make sure you have your records and receipts available for the practitioner to review.



Always review your tax return before you sign it and ensure the preparer signs and includes their 9-digit Preparer Tax Identification Number (PTIN). All paid preparers must have a PTIN to prepare tax returns. Preparers must also sign returns and include their PTIN. You can learn more at [IRS.gov/PTIN](https://www.irs.gov/PTIN).

To watch the video, visit the [youtube.com/IRSvideos](https://www.youtube.com/IRSvideos) page and search "Choosing a Tax Preparer Wisely" or scan the QR code below with your smart device.



Most practitioners are ready, willing and able to help you and your business meet all its tax needs and secure all the legitimate tax benefits for your business. If you run across someone who you think is not running a legitimate practice, you can report the abusive preparer to the IRS using **Form 14157** or **Form 14157-A**.