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Truckers' Tax Deductions Checklist

What drivers most often leave on the table, and what the IRS will not allow. Work it before tax season, not during.

VEHICLE

- [ ] Fuel, oil, repairs, tires, and washes
- [ ] Insurance premiums for the truck
- [ ] Lease payments, or interest on a truck loan
- [ ] Tolls, scale tickets, and parking fees

TRAVEL

- [ ] Per diem: $80 a day for days away from home (IRS rate)
- [ ] Lodging on the road when you do not take per diem for it
- [ ] Showers, laundry, and loading or unloading fees

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- [ ] Tools, gloves, PPE, and work boots
- [ ] Straps, chains, tarps, and load locks
- [ ] Cooler, bedding, and cab supplies for life on the road

HOME OFFICE AND COMMUNICATION

- [ ] Cell phone and the business share of your internet
- [ ] Computer, ELD subscription, and load board or dispatch apps
- [ ] A dedicated home office space, if you run the business from one

HEALTH AND PROFESSIONAL

- [ ] Health insurance premiums, if you are self-employed
- [ ] CDL renewal, endorsements, TWIC, and medical card exams
- [ ] Tax prep, bookkeeping, association dues, and business licenses

YOU CANNOT CLAIM THESE

- [ ] Expenses your carrier reimbursed you for
- [ ] Commuting from home to a local terminal
- [ ] Meals at home or on local runs
- [ ] Everyday clothing and personal trips
- [ ] Traffic tickets and other fines

A checklist, not tax advice. Rules change and your situation is your own; keep the receipts and let a CPA who knows trucking have the final word.