

Catch red flags before they cost you time, money, or trust. Spend 2 minutes now — save thousands later.

1. Business and Personal Finances

Mixing personal and business expenses triggers audits and kills deductions.

- Use a separate bank account and credit card for your business.
- Document shared assets like vehicles or home offices carefully.

2. Recordkeeping and Organization

Poor documentation leads to missed deductions and audit exposure.

- Reconcile accounts monthly — not just at year-end.
- Digitally store receipts and automate expense categorization.

3. Estimated Tax Payments

Skipping quarterly payments leads to penalties and big year-end tax bills.

- Make quarterly payments if you expect to owe \$1,000+.
- Use a quarterly calendar to stay ahead (April 15, June 15, September 15, January 15).

4. Filing Forms and Deadlines

Missing W-2s, 1099s, or payroll forms can cost you fines and interest.

- E-file all required forms before deadlines.
- Automate filing reminders or outsource payroll tasks.

5. Worker Classification

Misclassifying employees as contractors can trigger audits and back taxes.

- Apply IRS rules (control and behavior tests).
- Always have written contracts for contractors.

6. Choosing the Right Entity

The wrong structure can double your tax liability or disqualify credits.

- Confirm your setup (LLC, S-Corp, C-Corp) matches your tax strategy and growth plans.

7. Income Reporting

Mismatches between your 1099s, bank deposits, and records raise red flags.

- Reconcile all income from platforms like Stripe, PayPal, and your business bank account.

8. Deductions and Documentation

Claiming deductions without proof invites audits.

- Only deduct ordinary and necessary expenses.
- Keep mileage logs, meal receipts, and home office documentation.

9. Overlooking Tax Credits

Missing available credits means overpaying taxes.

- Research credits (e.g., R&D, hiring credits) annually.
- Ask your CPA or use software that flags opportunities.