GUIDE

Form 1099-MISC, what goes on it

Form 1099-MISC reports business payments that aren't pay for services, such as rent, royalties, prizes, medical payments and gross proceeds to attorneys. For 2026, most boxes use the new $2,000 threshold, and royalties use $10. Contractor fees go on Form 1099-NEC instead. Copies go to recipients by February 1, 2027.

QUICK FACTS

- **Threshold.** $2,000 for rent, prizes and other income paid in 2026, $10 for royalties
- **Not for.** Pay for services goes on Form 1099-NEC, not 1099-MISC
- **IRS due date.** March 1, 2027 on paper, March 31, 2027 if e-filed

What goes on Form 1099-MISC?

- Box 1, rents: office, store or equipment rent you paid, $2,000 or more for 2026. Rent paid to a property manager or agent is reported by them, not you.
- Box 2, royalties: $10 or more.
- Box 3, other income: prizes, awards and other taxable payments that aren't for services, $2,000 or more.
- Box 4: federal income tax withheld, such as backup withholding.
- Box 6, medical and health care payments: to doctors and other providers, even if incorporated.
- Box 10, gross proceeds paid to an attorney: settlement money paid through a lawyer, even if incorporated.

There are other boxes for fishing boat proceeds, crop insurance, substitute payments in lieu of dividends and deferred compensation, which most small businesses never use.

What's the difference from Form 1099-NEC?

Form 1099-NEC is for nonemployee compensation: fees paid for services. Form 1099-MISC is for the other payments above. A lawyer's fee for work done for your business goes on a 1099-NEC. A settlement you pay to a claimant through their lawyer goes in box 10 of a 1099-MISC. Our Form 1099-NEC guide covers contractor payments.

General information, not tax advice for your situation.

When is Form 1099-MISC due?

For 2026 payments, copies go to recipients by February 1, 2027 (or by mid-February if you report in box 8 or 10). Filing with the IRS is due March 1, 2027 on paper, since February 28 is a Sunday, or March 31, 2027 if you e-file. Anyone filing 10 or more information returns in total has to e-file, and the IRS IRIS portal is free.

Who doesn't get one?

Most corporations, except for medical payments and attorney proceeds. Payments made by card or through apps like PayPal, which the processor reports on Form 1099-K. Personal payments, like rent on your own home. And payments to employees, which go on their W-2.

How do I get it right?

Collect a W-9 from each landlord and payee before the first payment, track payments by method through the year, and file early. Our 1099 filing checklist covers January step by step, and our payroll service can file every form for you.

Common questions

Do I send a 1099-MISC to my landlord?
Yes, if you paid $2,000 or more of business rent in 2026 directly to an individual or unincorporated landlord. Not if you paid a property manager, or by card.

What is the 1099-MISC threshold for 2026?
$2,000 for rent, prizes, awards and other income. $10 for royalties.

When is 1099-MISC due to the IRS?
March 1, 2027 if filed on paper, and March 31, 2027 if filed electronically, for 2026 payments.

Do I report payments to a lawyer?
Legal fees for services go on Form 1099-NEC. Settlement proceeds paid to an attorney go in box 10 of Form 1099-MISC.

Want payroll handled?

We set it up, run it and file the returns. Book a free 30-minute call at eminenttax.com/contact or call (972) 347-4590.

eminenttax.com

General information, not tax advice for your situation.