

FREE Truck Driver Tax Deduction Guide

Maximize Your Deductions.
Keep More of Your Hard-Earned Money.

By 4K TaxPros LLC

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Section 1 — Most Common Tax Deductions for Truck Drivers

Every dollar spent on running your truck can be a deduction — if you track it. Below are the deductions OTR drivers and owner-operators claim most often.

Per Diem. Meals & incidentals for days away from home. DOT drivers deduct 80% of the standard per-diem rate.

Fuel & DEF Fluid. All fuel and diesel exhaust fluid purchases for the truck.

Truck & Lease Payments. Loan interest, depreciation, or lease payments on the tractor/trailer.

Insurance. Liability, cargo, physical damage, occupational accident, bobtail.

Registration & Permits. IRP plates, IFTA, UCR, state permits, Heavy Vehicle Use Tax (HVUT / Form 2290).

Repairs & Maintenance. Tires, oil changes, parts, labor, PMs, roadside repairs.

Tolls, Scales, Parking, Truck Washes. Keep receipts or download EFS/fuel-card statements.

Lodging, Showers, Laundry. On-the-road personal costs tied to work travel.

Cell Phone & Internet. Business-use portion of monthly service.

GPS, ELD, Dash Cameras. Devices and monthly subscriptions.

Office Supplies. Log books, folders, printer ink, envelopes, postage.

Safety Gear. Work boots, gloves, flashlights, vests, hard hats, tie-downs.

Load Board Fees. DAT, Truckstop, and other freight-matching subscriptions.

Accounting & Tax Preparation. Bookkeeping software and fees paid to 4K TaxPros.

Business Licenses. State/local business registrations and renewals.

Retirement Contributions. SEP-IRA, Solo 401(k), or Traditional IRA — when eligible.

Section 2 — Recordkeeping Checklist

Good records turn deductions into dollars. Use this checklist year-round.

Receipts to save

- Fuel and DEF receipts (or monthly fuel-card statements)
- Repair and maintenance invoices
- Tolls, scales, parking, wash receipts
- Lodging, laundry, shower receipts
- Insurance premium statements
- Truck/trailer purchase and loan documents
- Permit and registration renewals (IFTA, IRP, HVUT, UCR)

How long to keep them

Keep tax records for at least **3 years** from the filing date. Keep vehicle purchase, depreciation, and loan documents for **as long as you own the truck plus 3 years**.

Best apps for tracking expenses

- QuickBooks Self-Employed / QuickBooks Online
- TruckBytes or TruckLogics
- Expensify or Shoeboxed for receipt capture
- Everlance or MileIQ for mileage

Also do

- Keep a daily mileage log (start/end odometer, purpose)
- Use a dedicated business bank account and debit/credit card
- Snap a photo of every paper receipt the day you get it

Section 3 — Common Mistakes That Cost Drivers Thousands

- **Mixing personal and business expenses** — makes deductions unprovable in an audit.
- **Losing receipts** — no receipt, no deduction.
- **Not tracking per-diem correctly** — missing days-away-from-home logs.
- **Forgetting depreciation** — Section 179 and bonus depreciation on the truck.
- **Missing estimated tax payments** — triggers IRS penalties every quarter.
- **Ignoring state filing requirements** — multi-state apportionment and IFTA.
- **Filing with a general preparer** — non-trucker CPAs miss driver-specific deductions.

Section 4 — New Owner-Operator Startup Checklist

Starting your own authority? Do these in order.

- Form your business (LLC or S-Corp)
- Obtain an EIN from the IRS
- Open a business bank account
- Get accounting software set up
- Track expenses from day one
- Keep mileage logs from the first trip
- Set aside 25–30% of net income for taxes
- Schedule quarterly tax planning with 4K TaxPros

Need help getting set up? Ask about our Done-For-You Business Launch Concierge.

Section 5 — Monthly Expense Tracker

Print one page per month. Fill in as you go.

Category	Amount	Notes
Fuel		
Repairs		
Maintenance		
Insurance		
Tolls		
Parking		
Lodging		
Meals (per-diem days)		
Miscellaneous		
TOTAL		

Month: _____ Year: _____ Truck #: _____

Section 6 — Tax Season Checklist

Gather these before your appointment with 4K TaxPros:

- 1099-NEC / 1099-MISC forms
- W-2s (if you also had employee income)
- Fuel receipts or annual fuel-card summary
- Repair and maintenance invoices
- Insurance premium statements
- IFTA quarterly filings
- Mileage logs (annual totals + business use)
- Vehicle purchase / loan documents
- Loan statements (year-end interest paid)
- Prior-year tax return
- Estimated tax payments made (dates & amounts)

Ready to file?

Book your driver consultation at **4ktaxprosllc.org** or call **919-348-9777**. We work with OTR drivers and owner-operators in all 48 states.