

How to obtain a Federal Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Background

The Federal Employer Identification Number for corporations is just like a social security number for an American citizen. The EIN is how the government, specifically the IRS knows keeps track of your company, and it is issued to anyone who has to pay withholding taxes on employees.

The EIN is also known as the Tax Identification Number (TIN), **Federal Employer Identification Number** (FEIN) or the **Federal Tax Identification Number**. When you apply for an EIN the IRS will give you a unique nine-digit number that will represent your company in their system for tax and identification purposes.

EIN's never expire, so once it is issued, it is valid for the life of the company.

SSN Numbers can be validated as to origin and state / year of issuance, despite misconceptions; credit issuers and credit bureaus can tell the difference between SSN and EIN Numbers. An EIN is not considered sensitive information, because credit bureaus and issuers are highly trained in fraud detection and increasingly sophisticated algorithms, therefore many companies via publications and the internet freely distribute them.

Steps to Obtain EIN

1. Go to <http://www.irs.gov> and then click on the "Businesses" tab near the top of the page.
2. Next, click on the "Small Business/Self-Employed" link
3. Next, click on "Employer ID Numbers" located near the center of the page
4. Now, click on click "Apply for an EIN Online

The screenshot shows the IRS website's 'Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) Online' page. The page is titled 'Apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) Online' and is part of the Internal Revenue Service's website. The main content area includes a section titled 'Check Out Our Interview-style Application' which states that no Form SS-4 is needed and that the application is available online. Below this, there is a section for 'Important Information for Home-care Service Recipients' and a section for 'This Application Is Available During the Following Hours' which lists the operating hours for Monday through Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. At the bottom of the main content area, there is a link that says 'APPLY ONLINE NOW'.

5. Click on the “APPLY ONLINE NOW” **NOTE:** The online application for the EIN is only available during certain times as listed directly above the “APPLY ONLINE NOW” link.
6. Complete all of the required information on the online application. When you are finished the entire application you will be asked how you would like to receive your EIN information either via email or traditional mail.