

Record Retention Guide

Businesses

Accounting Records

Accounts Payable	7 years
Accounts Receivable	7 years
Audit Reports	Permanent
Chart of Accounts	Permanent
Depreciation schedules	Permanent
Expense Record	7 Years
Financial statements (annual)	Permanent
Fixed Asset Purchases	Permanent
General ledger	Permanent
Inventory records	
(Permanen	nt for LIFO system)
Loan Payment Schedules	
Purchase Orders (1 copy)	
Sales records	7 Years

Corporate Records

Board Minutes	Permanent
Business Licenses	Permanent
Bylaws	Permanent
Contracts - Major	Permanent
Contracts – Minor	Life + 4 years
Insurance Policies	Life + 3 years
(Check with your agent. Liability for p	rior years can vary.)
Leases/Mortgages	Permanent
Patents/trademarks	Permanent
Shareholder records	Permanent
Stock registers	Permanent
Stock transactions	Permanent
Benefit plans	Permanent
Employee files (ex-employees)	7 years
(or statute of limitations for e	employee lawsuits)
Employee applications	3 years
Employment taxes	7 years
Payroll records	7 years
Pension/profit sharing plans	Permanent

Bank Records

Bank Reconciliations 2 Years Bank Statements 7 Years
Electronic Payment Records Permanent
Cancelled or Substitute Checks 7 Years
(Permanent for Real Estate purchases)

Real Property Records

Construction Records	Permanent
Leasehold Improvements	Permanent
Lease Payment Records	Permanent
Real Estate Purchases	Permanent

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