

Tips for Amending Your Tax Return

You can file an amended tax return if mistakes or omissions were made on your original tax return. Here are some helpful tips for filing an amended return.

1. You will need to file using paper form 1040X. Amended returns cannot be filed electronically. You can obtain the form on [IRS.gov/forms](https://www.irs.gov/forms) at any time. Mail the Form 1040X to the address listed in the form's instructions.
2. You can only file an amended tax return to correct errors or make changes to an original tax return. For example, you can amend to change your filing status, or to correct your income, deductions or credits.
3. You generally don't need to file an amended return to correct math errors on an original return. The IRS will automatically correct these items. You do not need to file an amended return if you forgot to attach tax forms, such as a Form W-2 or a schedule.
4. An amended return must be filed within a three-year limit. You usually have three years from the date you filed the original tax return to file Form 1040X to claim a refund. For example, the last day for most people to file a claim for a refund for tax year 2013 is April 18, 2017. See Form 1040X instructions for special rules that may apply.
5. Use separate forms for each year. If you are amending more than one tax return, you must file a Form 1040X for each tax year. Mail each year's Form 1040X in separate envelopes to avoid confusion. Check with your tax preparer for procedures.
6. Attach other forms with changes. If you use other IRS forms or schedules to make changes, you need to attach them to the Form 1040X.
7. Wait to file for corrected refund for tax year 2016. If due a refund from your original tax year 2016 return, wait to get it before filing Form 1040X to claim an additional refund. Amended returns may take up to 16 weeks to process.
8. Pay additional tax. If you owe more tax, you should file Form 1040X and pay the tax as soon as possible to avoid penalties and interest.
9. Track your amended return. Usually, you can track the status of your amended tax return three weeks after you file with 'Where's My Amended Return?' Go to [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for the tool to track the return.