



Domestic Employers

The information in this flyer pertains to employers with domestic employment only. The requirements for domestic (household) employers to become subject under the unemployment insurance law are different from the requirements of other employers.

Domestic Employer Qualifications

Domestic employers are required to cover employees once the employees are paid cash wages of \$1,000 or more in total payroll in a calendar quarter, in either the current or preceding calendar year. For unemployment tax purposes, domestic employers do not include non-cash compensation (i.e., room and board) as wages. When domestic employers meet this criterion they must:

- Register with the Employment Department
- File an annual tax report (Form OA & a separate 132 - Domestic for each quarter) or quarterly tax report (Form OQ & 132)
- Pay unemployment taxes.

Once a domestic employer reaches \$1,000 wages in any calendar quarter, they become subject for the entire calendar year and the next calendar year, as long as employment exists. This holds true even if the payroll is less than \$1,000 in those quarters.

Forms for domestic employers can be obtained by either calling 503-947-1488 (option 3) or ordering from our website: www.oregon.gov/employ/tax

Domestic Worker

Domestic employees may work in a private home, a local college club, or the local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority. Examples of domestic service include cooks, waiters/waitresses, butlers, housekeepers, maids, baby-sitters, nannies, caretakers, gardeners, personal attendants, janitors, launderers, general houseworkers, caregivers, and chauffeurs of automobiles for family use.

Services performed as a private secretary, tutor, or nurse, are not domestic services even if performed in a private home.

Private Home

For domestic employment purposes, a private home is a fixed place of abode of an individual or household. It may be a house, apartment, condominium, or other distinct dwelling unit maintained by an individual or family. Temporary lodging, such as a hotel or motel, typically would not be considered as a "private home."

Private homes do not include premises used primarily as business enterprises such as residential care homes, boarding houses, hotels, and hospitals, unless the worker is employed by the resident of such a facility and not by the owner.

Subject Wages

- Wages paid in cash
- Taxes paid on behalf of an employee. This includes withholding and the employee's half of Social Security and Medicare.
- Gifts and bonuses
- Other cash payments made on behalf of an employee such as tuition, auto repair bills, credit card payments, and student loans.

When Coverage Of Domestic Employment Ceases

A domestic employer may request that their account be closed when the following conditions are met:

- They have not had \$1,000 or more in total payroll in any quarter during the preceding calendar year, and
- They do not anticipate having \$1,000 or more in total payroll in any quarter during the current calendar year.

The request must be made in writing to:
Oregon Employment Department
Tax Section, Room 107
875 Union St. NE
Salem OR 97311-0030

A Change in Status report (Form 013) can also be filed to close an account. This form can be downloaded at the Department of Revenue web site at www.oregon.gov/dor/bus/docs/211-157.pdf*

The employer's account will cease to be subject beginning the first day of the calendar quarter in which the request is filed. This cannot be retroactive.

Miscellaneous Information

- When a domestic employer meets the \$1,000 test, then all cash wages paid during that entire year are taxable.
 - » Example: If the employer exceeds the \$1,000 test in the third quarter, the report for all four quarters of the entire year is due by January 31 of the following year.
- The employer may file an annual report (Form OA) that is due by January 31st of the following year. This report will be accompanied by an Employee Detail Report (Form 132 - Domestic) showing the wages paid to each employee by quarter for the calendar year.

- If the employer wishes to file on a quarterly basis they may report using Form OQ and Form 132. This report is due by the end of the month following the quarter.
- Interest accrual is based on the format of the report filed. If you file annually, interest will not accrue until the due date of the annual report. If you file quarterly, interest will accrue on a quarterly basis.
- If an employer has both, regular and domestic employment, or agricultural and domestic employment, the domestic employment should be considered separate for the \$1,000 test. They may not file annually.
- **All reports and payments are due within 20 days of notifying us that you are closing your account (not January 31st). Interest will begin to accrue if payment isn't made by that date.**

*You can view this file with the [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#), available free.

Questions

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the Employment Department tax representative in your area or call 503-947-1488. To find your tax representative, view the web page at www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/TAX/TaxOffices.shtml. TDD/Nonvoice Users 711 or by email at taxinfo@emp.state.or.us. You may also visit our web site at www.oregon.gov/EMPLOY/TAX/.

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