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| Tax season is generally greeted with excitement for a refund *or* dread for paying out. Whichever way you’re feeling, here are some tips to make this tax season easier. | | |
| **1** | **Mark April 18, 2022** on your calendar—that’s your deadline to file! You can check for deadline extensions on the [official IRS website](https://www.irs.gov/). | |
| **2** | **Gather Documents** | |
|  | * Use this [Tax Prep Checklist](https://cdn.ramseysolutions.net/media/b2b/wellness/smart_dollar/resources/resource-center/campaigns/Suites/taxes/tax-prep-checklist.pdf.zip) to make sure you have everything you need! | |
| **3** | **Organize Papers** | |
|  | * + This doesn’t have to be rocket science. It can be as easy as grabbing a binder clip and some Post-its to label your stack of papers so you can easily grab out what you need. But if you’re a master organizer, you can create your own filing system at a reasonable price by grabbing an accordion folder. | |
| **4** | **File Taxes** | |
|  | * + There have never been so many options to file your taxes. You can either go through a tax pro, use an online service, or go old-school and use the 1040 supplied by the IRS website. However you file, make sure it’s right. You might save yourself some money up front by filling out your own 1040, but be sure you know what you’re doing or it could cost you in the long run. Was this a big year of purchasing your first home, lots of medical expenses, or starting a business? Maybe you should consider using a professional. | |
| **5** | **Make a Plan** | |
|  | * + If you’re feeling the pinch of paying this year, use SmartDollar to plan ahead and set aside some extra money each month for next year’s taxes. Or maybe you got a nice chunk of change back—that can go a long way with working your Baby Steps! Make sure your tax returns are a part of your budget, either way! | |
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| Looking for more ways to make the most of your money? Check out SmartDollar! | | |
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