

What Can I Claim as a Self-Employed Business?

Self-Employed

We appreciate it can be confusing as to what expenses you can and can't claim as a sole trader - our advice if you're unsure about a cost / purchase is always to include it and we will discount it if it's not allowable.

As a general guide, we would normally expect expenses to include:

Car Expenses:

- General running costs: fuel, insurance, road tax, servicing/repairs, new vehicle purchases
- Lease/HP costs (we'll need a copy of the agreement to calculate this correctly)
- Parking & tolls
- Mileage log (include vehicle type – car, van, bike etc. – we have a template, just ask!)

Travel & Subsistence

- Public transport, airfares, taxis
- Meals and drinks while working away from home
- Overnight accommodation for work or training

Tools & Equipment

- Tools, materials, and repairs
- Office furniture – desks, chairs, lamps
- Computer hardware and software
- Protective clothing and cleaning costs (ideally with a business logo for tax efficiency)

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Office & Admin

- Printing, postage, stationery
- Mobile phone and home telephone/internet use
- Trade journals, books, and relevant magazines

Training & Memberships

- Work-related training courses
- Professional subscriptions and trade organisation memberships

Insurance & Services

- Business insurance
- Advertising and marketing
- Legal, accounting, and bookkeeping fees
- Bank and credit card charges

Using Your Home for Business

You may be able to claim a portion of the following household costs. We'll calculate the business use if you provide the details below.

- Rent, ground rent, and service charges
- Council tax, water rates, sewage
- Gas and electricity
- Home and contents insurance
- Mortgage interest
- Repairs to the whole property or business-use rooms only

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Using Your Home for Business

We'll need:

- Total number of rooms (excluding hallways, bathrooms, WCs)
- Number of rooms used for business
- Weekly hours each room is used for business and by other household occupants

Where costs are shared between personal and business use, we will need a rough % split between business and personal use to prepare your tax return.

Motoring expenses can either be claimed based on % business use of actual motoring costs or the number of miles at the standard HMRC mileage rates. We've included the information needed for both calculation methods above as we are always happy to do the maths and see what works out best for you, but if you prefer to only provide one of actual motoring costs or mileage, that's absolutely fine.

This list is intended as a general guide and there may be expenses specific to your business not listed above - if in doubt, please always feel free to call or drop us a line!

Best regards,

