

Income Tax Deductions Made Easy

I was audited one year, and the IRS agent said that my records were excellent, so we know these tips work. Your income tax records can be completed in just a few minutes at the end of the year using these ideas and the Income Tax Preparation Sheet. Ct

- 1. Use a consultant order sheet to take inventory of your product inventory (Section 1) as of December 31.** Be sure to count products ordered, but not yet received at the end of the year, and product loaned to another consultant. Having a big stock at the end of the year is good for tax purposes. Count all the cleansing creams together and record on the order sheet, the same for each other group of products, no matter what the color or formula. This makes counting fast, and is something you can delegate out for someone else to do. Figure the retail value of the products using the Summary portion of your order sheet, then figure the discount at which you purchase your products. That figure is the wholesale value of the products on your shelves that you will record.
- 2. Use a consultant order form to record the products you will use for your personal use.** Add them up at the end of the year as above, and also figure non-collected sales tax on the retail amount that you can use as a tax deduction.
- 3. Purchase 12 large manila envelopes and label one for each month of the year.** Place all your income and expense records for each month of the year, such as statements and receipts, weekly accomplishments, sales tickets and computer printouts you receive with your orders in the envelope for that month. Also include cancelled checks or bank statements for that month from your Mary Kay bank account, and your business charge card statement to document your charged expenses.
- 4. During the year write up all products used as gift items on sales tickets.** Record the retail amount and amount at cost on the ticket. Keep track of the non-collected sales tax (the amount you prepaid in tax on those products). You can record gifts and non-collected sales tax as part of your Weekly Accomplishment sheet each week, and place the sales tickets in your large manila monthly records envelope as backup records.
- 5. Keep the computer sheets you receive with your product orders.** They are records of your product purchases during the year, as well as section 2 and sales tax paid.
- 6. Use the bank ledger in your Career Essentials materials to keep track of your business expenses.** Add in your cash expenses at the end of each month. At the end of the year, all you have to do is put the numbers in the correct categories and add them up.
- 7. Keep track of all hostess credits and customer discounts.** It is a good idea to charge sales tax on the full retail value of their order, since you already paid the tax on those products when you ordered them.
- 8. Carry some petty cash with you from your profits for those items you don't want to pay for by checks from your MK account.** Record cash expenses in your datebook right away, and transfer to your business ledger at the end of the month. Example: lunch with your team member. Record the amount, reason for the lunch and who it was with, so you have a record to back up your expense. Cash expenditures can add up, so keep track.
- 9. At the end of the year, record your ending odometer reading from your car,** and place your mileage log and car expenses log with your other records for the year.
- 10. Use the Income Tax Preparation sheet** which appears in your January newsletter for compiling numbers for your income tax accountant. With the backup records, you're all set.