

# Year-Round Tax Planning

EMRYS TAX ADVISORS

Filing your taxes in April is not tax planning—it's tax reporting. Real tax savings come from decisions made throughout the year. Here's what proactive tax planning looks like in practice.

## Q1 (January–March): Set the Foundation

Review last year's return with your advisor. Identify missed deductions or planning opportunities. Make retirement contributions for the prior year (IRA/SEP-IRA deadline is April 15). Adjust withholding or estimated payments if needed.

## Q2 (April–June): Mid-Year Checkup

Pay Q1 and Q2 estimated taxes on time. Review business income and expenses. If income is up significantly, consider accelerating deductions or maximizing retirement contributions. This is also a good time to review entity structure.

## Q3 (July–September): Proactive Moves

Consider timing large purchases or capital expenditures before year-end to maximize deductions. Review investment portfolio for loss harvesting opportunities. If you own rental property, address any repairs before December 31.

## Q4 (October–December): Year-End Strategy

This is the most critical quarter for tax planning. Key moves include: maximizing 401(k)/IRA contributions, bunching charitable deductions, deferring income or accelerating expenses, and reviewing Roth conversion opportunities.

*The most impactful tax decisions are made before December 31—not in April. Once the year ends, most of your options are gone.*

## Ongoing Habits That Save Money

- Keep business and personal finances completely separate.
- Track all business expenses in real time (not at year-end).
- Save receipts for all business-related purchases.
- Document mileage for every business trip.
- Review your tax situation any time there is a major life change: marriage, divorce, new child, new business, home purchase, or large income change.

