

Best Tax Practices – Now What? Refund When?

Generally speaking, the IRS (and most taxing authorities - states, etc.) have 45 days to process an initially filed tax return, ***once they receive it.***

The quickest way to receive a tax refund is to

- e-File the tax return
- Use Direct Deposit

If the return was e-Filed and Direct Deposit was indicated for any refund, the typical taxpayer will see their refund deposited into their account, on average, in about 12 to 14 days from the time the return was accepted. The IRS states that 9 out of 10 such returns will see the Direct Deposit within 21 days.

No taxing authority makes any promise or guarantee to when the refund will be deposited and all are cautioned on making any plans to spend their refund until they have been able to definitively establish the refund has been received in their bank account.

The taxing authorities do not send out any notification of the refund being deposited. The taxpayer will know the deposit dropped into their account only by watching their bank account.

If the taxing authorities have trouble making the Direct Deposit (i.e., the bank account is closed or the account information was incorrect on the tax return), the authorities will send a paper check for the refund to the address listed on the tax return. This will add time to the processing.

If there are other issues in processing the return or issuing the refund, the taxing authorities may or may not initiate contact with the filer and instead wait for the taxpayer to contact them. They usually do this as the first step in trying to help establish they are dealing with the correct person - especially if there is a concern of identity fraud.

For more information about your refund, please see the IRS Publication 2043

<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p2043en.pdf>

Amended returns require a processing time of 12 weeks (84 days) to process, ***once they receive it.***