

Saturday, April 15, 2006

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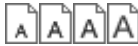
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Friday, April 14, 2006

Visit tax pro twice a year

Taxpayers can get proactive by visiting a professional two times a year.

By **MARY ANN MILBOURN**

The Orange County Register

Benjamin Franklin said there is nothing certain except death and taxes, but tax experts say people can do at least one thing to make the tax part easier on themselves.

Related links

- [Last-minute help for taxpayers](#)
- [State program fills in tax forms for simple returns](#)
- [Where to go for tax information and help](#)

Tax tip

If you got a large 2005 refund, increase your deductions to put more money in your pocket now. Here's a simple calculator for determining withholding: <http://www.kiplinger.com/personalfinance/tools/withholding/>

"Instead of seeing your tax professional once a year, go to them twice – maybe in the late summer – to see where you are," says Jeffrey Kolsin, a Fountain Valley CPA.

Taxpayers can discuss their situation and what actions they can take to help their taxes. That way, come tax time, there shouldn't be any big surprises – and no reason to procrastinate, Kolsin says.

"You should be planning your taxes just like planning to buy a home or buying life insurance or even a vacation," he says. And if you plan right, you may even have money left over from your taxes to take that vacation.

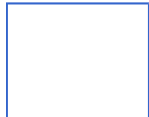
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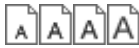
- Maximum wage subject to Social Security withholding: \$94,200
- Standard deductions: Head of household, \$7,550; married filing jointly, \$10,300; married filing separately, \$5,150 and single, \$5,150
- Hybrid vehicles: The previous \$2,000 tax deduction becomes a tax credit in 2006. Maximum credits range from \$2,200 to \$3,400 based on the vehicle. The credit is reduced each quarter after the manufacturer sells the first 60,000 of each hybrid model.
- 2006 mileage reimbursement: 44.5 cents a mile

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