Personal Records Retention Guide

1 year

- Paycheck Stubs (to be reconciled with W-2)
- Canceled Checks
- Monthly and Quarterly mutual fund and retirement contribution statements (to reconcile with year-end statement)

4 years

- Credit Card Statements
- Medical Bills (in case of insurance disputes)
- Utility Records
- Expired Insurance Policies

7 years

- Supporting Documents for Tax Returns
- Bank Statements
- Accident Reports and Claims
- Medical Bills (if tax-related)
- Sales Receipts
- Wage Garnishments
- Other Tax-Related Bills

Forever

- CPA Audit Reports
- Legal Records
- Important Correspondence
- Income Tax Returns
- Income Tax Payment Checks
- Investment Trade Confirmations
- Retirement and Pension Records

Special Circumstances

- Car Records (keep until the car is sold)
- Credit Card Receipts (keep with your credit card statement)
- Insurance Policies (keep for the life of the policy)
- Mortgages/Deeds/Leases (keep six years beyond the agreement)
- Pay Stubs (keep until reconciled with your W-2)
- Property Records/ improvement receipts (keep until property is sold)
- Sales Receipts (keep for the life of the warranty)
- Stock and Bond Records (keep for six years beyond selling)
- Warranties and Instructions (keep for the life of the product)
- Other Bills (keep until payment is verified on the next bill)
- Depreciation Schedules and Other Capital Asset Records (keep for three years after the tax life of the asset)