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If you're planning on traveling internationally, your United States passport renewal is important. Check the date on the data page and if it's about to expire, it's time to renew. The form you need can be found online and printed and you can fill it out by hand. Or, fill it out on your computer and it will be ready to print and send. If you prefer to bring it in person, it's easy to find the phone number for your local agency and call for an appointment.

Application

The application will be different based on whether you are renewing, applying for your first passport or replacing one that has been lost or stolen. It's also different if you have changed your name. However, all the forms you need are easy to find online.

Identification

When renewing, you will have to provide identification. Two types are required; one for identity and one for proof of citizenship. IDs that are acceptable include your driver's license, a military or government ID, or your old passport. Examples of what to use for proof that you are a United States citizen include a birth certificate or a government ID. Make sure you bring copies of the IDs that you will be providing.

Photos

You'll also need color photos of yourself. Two identical copies are required and you must be facing forward with your full face showing. Once you have these and all the required documents, you'll have to pay a fee. Adults are charged \$110 to \$140 and it is less for children.

Passport Cards

Another option is to buy a passport card. It has a size and appearance similar to that of a driver's license and can be used for travel to Canada, the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Mexico. It is smaller and easier to carry and it costs less but it cannot be used for international air travel. The fees vary based on whether it is for adults or children but the range is only \$30 to \$55.

Expediting

If an urgent need for international travel has arisen, it is possible to renew quickly. There will be an extra fee of \$60 and you will also be charged for two-day shipping. It's a good idea to bring your application in person but if mailing is the method you must use, two-day service is recommended. If you do mail it, write "expedite" on the envelope and sign up for a way to track the mail.

Online Help

For more information about official travel, how to obtain proof of citizenship and more, check online. All the details are provided about getting additional visa pages, what to do if your passport is lost or stolen and more. There are also instructions for filling out the application forms.

Obtaining a [US pasport renewal](#) is easier than ever. Get started early because the country you plan to visit might require that your documents are valid six months after you arrive. There are expediting services available, like is a [lost US passport](#) is incurred and a renewal is needed you can get an expedited passport renewal.

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