

Document Retention and Destruction Policy

Document Destruction

The Document Retention and Destruction Policy identifies the record retention responsibilities of staff, volunteers, members of the board of directors, and outsiders for maintaining and documenting the storage and destruction of the organization's documents and records.

The organization's staff, volunteers, members of the board of directors, committee members and outsiders (independent contractors via agreements with them) are required to honor the following rules:

- a. Paper or electronic documents indicated under the terms for retention in the following section will be transferred and maintained by the Director of Operations
- b. All other paper documents will be destroyed after three years;
- c. All other electronic documents will be deleted from all individual computers, data bases, networks, and back-up storage after **one year**;
- d. No paper or electronic documents will be destroyed or deleted if pertinent to any ongoing or anticipated government investigation or proceeding or private litigation and
- e. No paper or electronic documents will be destroyed or deleted as required to comply with government auditing standards

Type of Document	Minimum Requirement
Accounts payable ledgers and schedules	7 years
Bank reconciliations	2 years
Bank statements	3 years
Contracts, mortgages, notes, and leases (expired)	7 years
Contracts (still in effect)	Contract period
Correspondence (general)	2 years
Correspondence (legal and important matters)	Permanently
Correspondence (with customers and vendors)	2 years
Duplicate deposit slips	2 years
Employment applications	3 years
Year-end financial statements	Permanently
Insurance records, current accident reports, claims, policies, and so on (active and expired)	Permanently
Inventory records for products, materials, and supplies	3 years
Invoices (to customers, from vendors)	7 years
Minute books, bylaws, and charter	Permanently
Payroll records and summaries	7 years
Personnel files (terminated employees)	7 years
Tax returns and worksheets	Permanently
Timesheets	7 years
Trademark registrations and copyrights	Permanently
Withholding tax statements	7 years