



To everything there is a season – except tax scams

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Many people don't really think about taxes once the tax season is over...but people promoting scams do. Each year, the IRS releases the top 12 scams, known as the [Dirty Dozen](#). The schemes range from simple refund inflation to technical tax shelter deals.

Here's a review of this year's Dirty Dozen:

- 1) **Phishing:** Taxpayers should watch for [fake emails or websites](#) looking to steal personal information.
- 2) **Phone Scams:** Phone calls from criminals impersonating IRS agents remain an [ongoing threat](#) to taxpayers.
- 3) **Identity Theft:** Taxpayers should be alert to tactics aimed at [stealing their identities](#).
- 4) **Return Preparer Fraud:** Most tax professionals provide honest, high-quality service. However, there are some dishonest preparers who [scam clients](#).
- 5) **Fake Charities:** Groups [masquerading as charitable organizations](#) solicit donations from unsuspecting contributors.
- 6) **Inflated Refund Claims:** Taxpayers should be wary of anyone [promising inflated tax refunds](#).
- 7) **Excessive Claims for Business Credits:** Taxpayers should avoid [improperly claiming the fuel tax credit](#).
- 8) **Falsely Padding Deductions on Returns:** Taxpayers should avoid the temptation to [falsely inflate deductions or expenses](#) on their tax returns.
- 9) **Falsifying Income to Claim Credits:** Con artists may convince taxpayers to invent income to [erroneously qualify for tax credits](#), such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- 10) **Frivolous Tax Arguments:** Some taxpayers use [frivolous tax arguments](#) to avoid paying tax.
- 11) **Abusive Tax Shelters:** Taxpayers who use [abusive tax structures](#) do so to avoid paying taxes.
- 12) **Offshore Tax Avoidance:** It's a bad bet to [hide money and income offshore](#).

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