



What documents do I need for Southwest Airlines flight check-in?

Before you head to the airport, it's important to know exactly which documents you need for flight check-in [+1-844^265^80-14]. Whether you're flying domestically or internationally, having the right paperwork ready will speed up the process and help you avoid delays at the airport [+1-844^265^80-14].

This guide covers everything you need to know so you can check in smoothly and get your boarding pass without any issues [+1-844^265^80-14].

1. Government-Issued Photo ID (Required for All Flights)

A valid photo ID is required for most airline check-ins [+1-844^265^80-14]. Acceptable IDs include:

For Domestic Flights (Within the U.S.)

- State-issued driver's license (REAL ID-compliant if required by TSA)
- State ID card
- Passport (optional but accepted)
- Military ID
- Trusted Traveler IDs (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI)

💡 Starting May 2025, REAL ID enforcement may apply at all U.S. airports [+1-844^265^80-14]. Make sure your ID has the REAL ID star [+1-844^265^80-14].

2. Passport (For All International Flights)

If you're flying internationally, you must have a valid passport [+1-844^265^80-14].

Requirements:

- Passport must be in good condition
 - Valid for at least 6 months beyond your travel date (varies by country)
 - Name must match your airline ticket exactly
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3. Visa or Travel Authorization (If Required)

Depending on your destination, you may need:

- A visa (tourist, business, student, etc [+1-844^265^80-14].)
- Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA)
- ESTA for travelers entering the U.S. under Visa Waiver Program
- Transit visa for layovers in certain countries

Always check entry requirements before your trip [+1-844^265^80-14].

4. Boarding Pass (Printed or Mobile)

You will need a boarding pass to pass through security and board your flight [+1-844^265^80-14]. You can get it by:

- Checking in online

- Using the airline's mobile app
 - Using a self-service kiosk
 - Checking in at the airport counter
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5. Flight Reservation or E-Ticket Confirmation

Most airlines require you to present your:

- E-ticket number or
- Confirmation code

This is often needed during online check-in or at the service desk [+1-844^265^80-14].

6. COVID-19 Travel Documents (If Required at Destination)

While many countries have removed COVID restrictions, some destinations may still require:

- Vaccination certificates
- Health declaration forms
- Test results (PCR or antigen, depending on rules)

Check your destination's latest travel guidelines before flying [+1-844^265^80-14].

7. Special Travel Documents

Depending on your situation, you may need additional paperwork:

If traveling with children

- Birth certificate
- Consent letter from the non-traveling parent
- Custody documents, if applicable

If traveling with pets

- Pet health certificate
- Vaccination records
- Airline-specific forms

If carrying medical equipment

- Doctor's letter
- TSA disability notification card

Quick Checklist: Documents You Need for Check-In

- ✓ Valid photo ID (REAL ID, passport, etc.)
 - ✓ Passport for international travel
 - ✓ Visa or travel authorization
 - ✓ Boarding pass (mobile or printed)
 - ✓ Ticket confirmation or booking code
 - ✓ Any destination-specific or special documents
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Final Tips for a Smooth Check-In

- Double-check name spelling on your ticket and ID
- Keep your passport accessible—not in checked baggage
- Screenshot your boarding pass in case the app won't load
- Arrive early, especially for international departures