



FINANCE YOUR BUDGET

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ATO allows deductions for sanitiser, face masks and COVID-related expenses



Hand sanitisers and gloves are tax deductible, depending on your line of work.

Photo: Getty



Matt Johnson Reporter @matte_johnson

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Australians who were required to stump up cash towards face masks and gloves to protect themselves at work can claim those expenses as tax deductions, the Australian Tax Office has confirmed.

Recognising the new challenges coronavirus has presented Australians as they finalise their tax returns, the **ATO has released a suite of new resources** to help people understand what they can and can't claim.

Among the pandemic-related additions are soaps, face masks, hand sanitisers and gloves.

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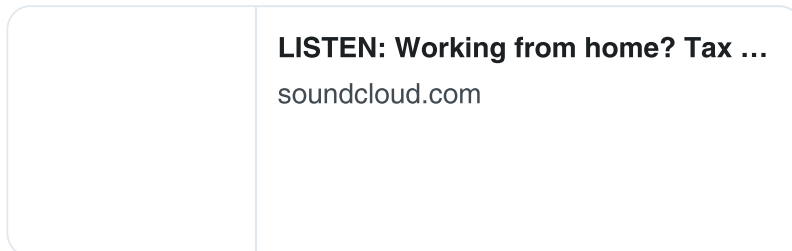
measures may be able to claim a deduction for items such as gloves, face masks, sanitiser or anti-bacterial spray if they have paid for the items and not been reimbursed," Ms Foat said.



Peter Ryan

@Peter_F_Ryan

LISTEN: Working from home? Tax Office outlines what can be claimed during pandemic. I speak with ATO assistant commissioner Karen Foat [@abcnews](#) [#COVID19](#) [#auspol](#) [@ato_gov_au](#) on [#SoundCloud](#) [#np soundcloud.com/peterryan-3/li...](#)



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Workers who purchased personal protective equipment (PPE) to work through summer's horrific bushfire season are also eligible for these deductions.

Working from home deductions a key priority: ATO

Ms Foat expected the numbers of remote work-related deductions to soar, after employers across the country requested their workers work from home after the national lockdown in March.

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Australian Taxation Office
on Thursday



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"But it is all inclusive, meaning you can't claim for any other working from home expenses."

H&R Block director of tax communications Mark Chapman **has previously told *The New Daily*** workers could receive a larger tax refund if they opt for the conventional receipts method.

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ATO will be vigilant on workers claiming too much tax

Although the number of working from home claims is expected to rocket, the ATO predicts more workers will lodge tax returns that include non-deductible expenses.

Ms Foat said the auditors in particular will be clamping down on workers who claim for laundry expenses if they were not required to wear a work uniform while at home, or travel if it's not related to their job.

And workers who were required to travel to the office one day a week while in lockdown are unable to claim those expenses.

"It's still important to meet the three golden rules: You must have spent the money and not have been reimbursed, it must relate directly to earning your income, and you must have a record to prove it," Ms Foat said.

*More information on the ATO's 'Tax Time Essentials' for the 2019-20 financial year can be found at **this link**.*

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