Lease Quote Red-Flag Checklist

Catch the missing numbers and buried fees before you sign a leasing quote

Run this list against any equipment leasing quote. It pairs with the Equipment Lease Quote Worksheet and the full guide: clearlegaltips.com/equipment-leasing-rates/

BEFORE YOU SHOP

- [ ] You know your rough credit standing, since it drives the rate more than anything else
- [ ] You have decided whether you want to own the machine at the end or hand it back
- [ ] You know how many months you actually need the equipment

READING THE QUOTE

- [ ] The term and the residual or buyout are stated in writing, not left vague
- [ ] Every fee is named on the quote, including anything due at return
- [ ] The interest rate is disclosed, not buried inside the payment
- [ ] The buyout structure is explicit, either fair-market value or a nominal dollar
- [ ] Any personal guarantee is spelled out, and you know how far it reaches

PRICE-CHECKING IT

- [ ] You backed the implied rate out of the payment in the equipment lease calculator
- [ ] You compared the deal against a loan quote using the lease-vs-loan guide
- [ ] You are comparing quotes on all-in cost, not the monthly payment alone

BEFORE SIGNING

- [ ] Nothing important was left verbal; every number that matters is on the contract
- [ ] You saved your own electronic copy of the signed lease and the quote it came from
- [ ] You noted the structure and asked a CPA about rent deduction versus Section 179

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

This checklist is general information, not legal or tax advice. Laws and tax figures change, and Section 179 dollar limits are set for tax years beginning in 2025 and inflation-adjust in later years, so confirm the current numbers and your eligibility with a CPA before you file. There is no universal equipment leasing rate; price the quote in front of you. The full guide, the calculator, and official sources are at clearlegaltips.com/equipment-leasing-rates/