



SFMTA

Frequently Asked Questions about Residential Permit Parking (RPP)

Residential Permit Parking (RPP) was established in 1976 as a way to protect residential neighborhoods from increased traffic and commuter parking due to proximity to large traffic generators, such as employment districts, transit stations, hospitals and universities. There are currently 31 RPP Areas in San Francisco, which range in size from .1 square mile (Area DD) to 1.3 square miles (Area S). In areas with RPP, time limits are established to discourage commuter parking; residents with RPP permits are exempt from these time limits.

Do I need a permit if I do not park on the street?

If you do not park your vehicle on a public street, you do not need an RPP permit. Once RPP are approved and signs are installed on your street, permits are only required if you park your vehicle on the public street for longer than the time limits indicated on the RPP signs, usually 2 hours.

How many permits may I purchase?

On June 5, 2018, the SFMTA Board of Directors modified the Transportation Code to limit the number of permits to one permit per driver and two permits per household for Areas AA, EE and all new RPP Areas established after May 2018. In the pre-existing 29 RPP Areas, residents are allowed up to four permits per household.

What if there are more than two vehicles at my address?

In new RPP Areas established after May 2018, including Areas AA and EE, households with a third or fourth driver may petition the SFMTA for additional permits up to a total of four. The SFMTA will take into consideration the availability of parking on the petitioner's block by conducting a parking occupancy survey before approving the issuance of additional permits. The fee for the third permit is two times the fee for the first and the fee for the fourth permit is three times the fee for the first. Please visit www.sfmta.com/rpp for the current permit fees.

I have care-takers come to my home every day. Can I get a permit for them?

There are permits available for in-home child care and medical care providers. For medical care providers, the application must be accompanied by written authorization from the resident's licensed physician. An application for a child care provider permit must be accompanied by a copy of the child's birth certificate.

What if I do not own a vehicle, but rent one for a few days or have visitors?

RPP parking regulations are usually in effect Monday through Friday, from 8am to 6pm. In most Areas, visitors do not need a permit to park in the evening or on weekends. If you need to rent a vehicle or have visitors during hours of enforcement, you may purchase up to 20 low cost 1-day temporary permits per year. In addition, if you are a new resident, or living here temporarily, you may purchase 2, 4, 6 or 8-week temporary permits.

I own a business in the area. Can I get a permit?

An individual who owns or leases commercial property within an RPP area is eligible to purchase one permit. The permit is issued to the individual holding the lease. To purchase a permit, the business owner must show a current property lease or deed, a current business tax certificate and a current vehicle registration. A business address is eligible for only one permit. In addition, up to 3 permits may be issued for commercial delivery vehicles. Vehicles must display a commercial license plate and be registered to the business at the business address in the RPP area. Businesses wishing to purchase a permit are strongly encouraged to call the Customer Service Center at (415) 701-3000 to more fully understand the requirements for obtaining a permit.

How is RPP enforced?

RPP is enforced Monday thru Friday or Saturday, depending on the RPP Area. Parking Control Officers (PCOs) work in shifts starting either at 6:30 am, 8:00 am or 1:00 pm. Usually, one PCO is assigned to each RPP area. For large areas, it may be more than one.

How far do I need to move my car so as not to get a ticket if I don't have an RPP decal?

In RPP areas, you must move your vehicle before the posted time limit (2 hours usually) is reached if you don't have a permit. The law requires you to move one block away or at least one-tenth (1/10) of a mile—about 500 feet. Do not park in the same block as you did for the previous 2 hours, or you can be issued a citation! Not all vehicle tires are marked with chalk, so don't assume that not having a chalk mark means your car has not been checked. Now, some PCOs have handheld electronic tracking computers that will log your license plate as being parked on a specific block. When the officer returns to the block in 2 hours, if you are still parked anywhere on that block, you will be issued a citation.

If approved, when will RPP go into effect?

Once the SFMTA Board approves the establishment of a new RPP Area, it takes up to three months to install the signs and print the new decals. Residents will receive letters informing them of when RPP will become effective, along with an application for a permit.

How do I purchase a permit?

Once eligible, you may purchase your permit in one of two ways, by mail or in-person. If you choose to order your permit by mail, you can download the application from the SFMTA website, www.sfmta.com/rpp complete the application and send it along with copies of your vehicle registration and insurance and the permit fee to Customer Service Center at 11 South Van Ness Avenue. You may also go directly to 11 South Van Ness with the proper documentation and pay for your permit there.

Can RPP regulations be changed?

After a new RPP Area is established, the specific days and times of restricted parking may be changed. For instance, if residents want parking restrictions to extend until 8 pm or to Saturdays, they may petition the SFMTA to make these changes. As with any petition to modify traffic regulations, the petition must have signatures from at least 50% of the households on the blocks that want the change. In addition, any block within an existing RPP Area may petition the SFMTA to have RPP eligibility on their block rescinded. The petition must have signatures from at least 50% of the households on the block that desires the change. Most requests to modify RPP Area restrictions take about 4 to 5 months to be processed.

What if I live just outside the boundary of an RPP Area; how can I get a permit?

The establishment of a new RPP Area or the extension of an existing Area is initiated by residents. If you live on a block outside any existing RPP Area, you, together with your neighbors, may petition the SFMTA to have your block included in the Area closest to your residence. The petition must have signatures from at least 50% of the residential units on the block. Once your block is added to an RPP area, you are eligible to purchase a permit.

What does SFMTA do with the revenue generated from RPP fees?

The SFMTA processes and issues over 90,000 RPP permits annually, including annual, visitor and temporary permits. The program is self-funded, meaning all fees collected with permit applications is used to administer the program. About 55% of revenue is used for enforcement and 28% is used for processing permit applications. Another 11% is used for printing and postage, signs, vehicles and other equipment.

Visit www.sfmta.com/rpp or call (415) 701-2311 for more information.