

Streets of San Francisco Parking Guide

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SFMTA.COM
OR CALL 311 (415-701-2311 OUTSIDE OF THE 415
AREA CODE) 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.
THE SFMTA CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER IS LOCATED
AT 11 SOUTH VAN NESS AVENUE IN SAN FRANCISCO.

FOR A LIST OF CITY GARAGES PLEASE
GO TO WWW.SFMTA.COM/PARKING

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SFMTA
Municipal
Transportation
Agency

WELCOME to the streets of San Francisco. Whether you're a visitor or a long-time resident, this brochure provides guidance to help drivers comply with San Francisco parking regulations. The goal is to help drivers avoid getting a citation or having their vehicle towed. This is a quick reference guide and not intended to be comprehensive. More in-depth information about San Francisco parking rules can be found under the Getting Around section at sfmta.com.

WATCH FOR TOW-AWAY ZONES AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS:

Check for signs within 100 feet of both the front and back of your vehicle. Signs may be displayed in a variety of ways, including on utility poles, trees, barricades and on meter posts. Many locations have multiple, different restrictions that vary by day and time, such as periodic street sweeping or commute-hour tow-away restrictions. Please read all signs carefully.

COMMUTE HOURS TOW-AWAY ZONE:

Some parking zones become tow-away zones during commute hours, including some metered parking spaces. Check the meter face and posted signs for tow-away restrictions.

CONSTRUCTION ZONE:

It is illegal to stop or park in a temporary construction tow-away zone. Temporary "No Stopping" signs for construction projects must be posted at least 72 hours prior to the parking restriction.

SPECIAL EVENT ZONE:

Temporary "No Stopping" restrictions may be posted where parked vehicles would obstruct traffic, street fairs, parades, other special events or moving vans. Temporary parking restriction signs may be posted on meter posts, trees, utility poles, etc. In some cases notices can be posted 24 hours before they become effective. The signs apply to all vehicles parked within 100 feet (50 feet for residential or commercial moves).

KEYS TO PARKING

DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS:

A driveway begins at the curb cut, or the point at which the curb begins to slope downward toward street level. A vehicle parked within curb cuts can be cited and towed. Even partial encroachments into the driveway area can result in a tow. Some driveways are marked with short red curb markings that indicate additional space where vehicles should not park. It is illegal for private parties to paint curbs or other markings on the street. Residents can block their own driveways only if the building the driveway serves has one or two units and the vehicle's license plate is registered to the building's address. All other types of driveway parking can be cited.

CURB YOUR TIRES ON HILLS:

When you park on a slope (more than a 3 percent grade), angle your front wheels so if your vehicle were hit or its brakes were to fail, it would roll into the curb and not into traffic.

- Headed downhill, turn your front wheels into the curb or toward the side of the road. Headed uphill, turn your front wheels away

*Check for signs.
Please read them carefully.*

from the curb and let your vehicle roll back a few inches. The wheel should gently touch the curb.

- Always set your parking brake and leave the vehicle in gear or in "park" or "P" position.

PARK ADJACENT TO THE CURB:

When parking parallel, California law requires that the two wheels closest to the curb be no more than 18 inches away from the curb. The exception is when there are officially designated signs or pavement markings for angle or perpendicular parking.

FACE THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC:

Don't park against the flow of traffic. Your vehicle must face in the direction of the flow of traffic.

DO NOT BLOCK CROSSWALKS:

A crosswalk is the extension of a sidewalk through an intersection and exists whether it is painted or not. It is illegal to park in marked or unmarked crosswalks.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS RAMPS:

Vehicles may not block any portion of a wheelchair access ramp, including the slope, or cut-down portion, of the curb.

72-HOUR MAXIMUM:

In the absence of other restrictions, such as permit zones, street sweeping, or posted time limits, you are allowed to park in one spot for up to 72 hours. Vehicles parked beyond the maximum limit may be issued a warning and be cited and/or towed, even if they have a permit to park in that area. A disabled placard or residential parking permit does not provide an exemption from this restriction.

COLOR CURB ZONES

YELLOW ZONES:

Yellow zones are only for commercial vehicles actively loading or unloading freight. Check nearby signs or stencils on the curb for effective hours. Vehicles without a commercial license plate parked in a yellow zone will be cited and can be towed if the sign specifies it is a tow zone.

Six-Wheel Truck Loading Zones are indicated by signs or yellow curb paint. Six-wheel loading zones can typically be distinguished by their red-capped meters in metered areas. These zones are typically used for large businesses or properties that receive or deliver a lot of shipments.

RED ZONES:

Red zones are "No Parking" zones. Do not park in a red zone at any time.

BLUE ZONES:

Blue zones are parking spaces for people with a valid disabled

parking placard or license plate. They are effective 24 hours a day, seven days a week but still subject to tow-away zone restrictions or special event or construction restrictions. Do not block access to a blue zone or park in one without a valid placard or license plate. The fine is severe and your vehicle may be towed.

GREEN ZONES:

Green curbs are for short-term parking, generally not exceeding 10 minutes. Check signage or curb stenciling for effective hours. In metered areas, green meters will have either a 15- or 30-minute time limit. Vehicles bearing disabled placards or plates are exempt from the time limits for green curbs/meters.

WHITE ZONES:

White zones are for passenger loading and unloading during certain hours with a time limit of five minutes. Check nearby signs or stencils on the curb for effective hours. The driver must remain with the vehicle at all times (limited exceptions apply at preschools and medical facilities). Some white zones are restricted to certain types of vehicles, such as taxis or tour buses.

For more information about color curb zones, please visit: sfmta.com/colorcurbs

OTHER PARKING & VEHICLE GUIDELINES

WATCH FOR STREET CLEANING DAYS:

On street sweeping days drivers must move their cars to avoid a ticket. Signs are posted on each street indicating the street cleaning schedule. A residential parking permit or disabled placard does not exempt a vehicle from street cleaning parking restrictions. Once the sweeper has passed, you may park in the zone.

SIDEWALK PARKING:

A vehicle parked on any portion of a sidewalk can be cited for a sidewalk violation. A sidewalk citation can be given even if the pedestrian travel path is partly clear or if the vehicle is parked across a driveway. Sidewalks are the area between the curb and the building property line. Motorcycles are not exempt from sidewalk parking regulations. Bicycles can be parked on the sidewalk but their owners must ensure that the pedestrian path is safe and clear.

DOUBLE PARKING:

Drivers may not stop or park a vehicle in a traffic lane, at any time.

BUS ZONES:

Vehicles may not stop or park in bus zones at any time, even if the vehicle is attended while dropping off a passenger. These zones are usually indicated by signs or red curbs, and/or white painted bus boxes on the street.

MEDIAN PARKING:

Vehicles may not park next to median dividers, traffic islands, painted center lines or other structures intended to separate opposing traffic lanes.

FIRE HYDRANTS:

Vehicles may not stop or park within 15 feet of fire hydrants or

Be mindful of:

*** Street sweeping**

*** 72-hour limit**

*** Curbing your wheels**

in the adjacent area designated by red curb unless the vehicle is attended by a licensed driver who can immediately move it if necessary.

PARKING METERS:

All San Francisco parking meters accept payment by coin, pay-by-phone, the SFMTA parking card and credit cards. A parking meter violation occurs when time on the meter has expired. Most parking meters operate until 6 p.m. Some meters become tow-away zones during commute hours. Please check the meters for hours of operation. Meters are enforced Monday through Saturday except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. On Sundays, meters operate and are enforced in the Fisherman's Wharf area, the Embarcadero, five off-street parking lots and in the area around AT&T Park during special events.

MOTORCYCLE PARKING ZONES:

Special motorcycle parking zones may include both metered and non-metered parking. Other vehicles are prohibited in these zones. Motorcycles may not park on city sidewalks.

POSTED TIME LIMITS:

Before exceeding the parking time limit on a street, move your vehicle and don't park on the same block. The San Francisco Transportation Code requires that a vehicle be moved to a different block (or more than one-tenth of a mile) in order for it not to be considered stationary. A vehicle can be cited for a time limit violation even if its owner moved the vehicle from one side of the same block to the other. Not all vehicle tires are marked with chalk to check for a time limit violation, so do not assume that a lack of tire markings means that there has not been a time limit check. It is illegal to erase tire markings placed by a parking control officer.

BLOCKING THE BOX:

When driving, your vehicle must completely clear an intersection before the light turns red. Before you enter an intersection, make sure there is enough space on the other side so you won't block the crosswalk or any traffic. Parking control officers will ticket drivers who block the intersection. It's called "blocking the box."

RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING:

Posted time limits in residential permit parking areas do not apply to drivers with a permit for that area or disabled placard holders. The purpose of the residential parking permit is to make it easier for residents to park in their neighborhood. The program places time limits on parking for non-residents. The limits vary by neighborhood. Temporary permits may be obtained for guests. Medical providers and caregivers may also qualify for a permit.

For information about obtaining a residential parking permit, please visit: sfmta.com/rpp

DISABLED PARKING PLACARD:

Disabled parking placards exempt users from time limits and meter payment. They do not exempt users from other parking restriction, like 72-hour parking limits, street cleaning or commute time tow-away restrictions. Many metered spaces become tow-away zones during commute hours. Note: disabled placards may only be displayed if the placard holder is being transported. Please refer to the identification card issued with the placard for guidance.

LOST, STOLEN OR EXPIRED DISABLED PLACARDS:

It is prohibited to use placards that are expired or have been reported to the Department of Motor Vehicles as lost or stolen. This is true regardless of the user, including individuals who have current placards. Vehicles found displaying lost, stolen or expired placards may be cited and towed.

DELINQUENT TICKETS (BOOT & TOW):

Under the California Vehicle Code, a vehicle with five or more delinquent parking citations may be immediately towed or immobilized, often known as "booted." Once a vehicle has been booted you have 72 hours to pay the boot fee, outstanding citations and penalties on the booted vehicle and on any other vehicle registered in your name before it is towed. Boots are not released on Sundays or holidays. Payment plans or community service in lieu of payment are not an option once your vehicle has been booted or towed.

Boot fees cannot be paid online. During regular business hours, you must appear in person at the SFMTA Customer Service Center at 11 South Van Ness Avenue to pay this fee and have your vehicle released. During non-business hours you can pay these fees at AutoReturn located at 450 7th Street.

TOWED VEHICLE:

If your vehicle has been towed you can recover your vehicle and settle all fees at AutoReturn located at 450 7th Street.

Regardless of the reason for the tow, if you have five or more delinquent citations they must be paid in full, including any late penalties. A vehicle will not be released if the registration has expired. In order to recover your vehicle, go to the Department of Motor Vehicles and return with proof of valid registration. All fees and citation penalties still apply. AutoReturn accepts cash, ATM cards and most major credit cards (American Express, Discover, MasterCard and Visa). They are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For more information go to www.autoreturn.com

CONTESTING A TOW:

By law, tow fees cannot be waived or refunded on the basis of financial hardship or mitigating circumstances. If your vehicle is valued as less than \$500 you must request a hearing within 10 calendar days from the date of the tow. If your vehicle is valued at \$500 or more, you must request a hearing within 30 calendar days from the date of the tow.

You can request a hearing by calling 415-701-5400. In-person hearings are conducted at the SFMTA Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. You are strongly advised to get your vehicle out of storage immediately as storage fees accrue daily. If you wish to request a hearing by mail, send a letter outlining the reason for your protest and any evidence you wish to have considered to:

SFMTA Hearing Section
Attention: Tow Hearings
11 South Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94103

"FIX IT" COMPLIANCE CITATIONS:

If you receive a citation for a correctable violation, such as expired registration or missing plate you can submit proof of the correction and pay the \$10 administrative fee. Follow the instructions on the back of the citation.

CONTESTING A CITATION:

Parking violation citations must be protested within 21 days from the date the ticket is issued or from the date of the first courtesy notice. Protests will not be considered after that period of time has expired. Do not pay your citation if you wish to protest it.

Citation protests may be submitted on line at sfmta.com/protest or submitted by mail to the SFMTA Customer Service at 11 South Van Ness Avenue.

ADDITIONAL LEVELS OF PROTEST:

If your protest is denied at the first level of review, you have the right to request an administrative hearing. You can request a hearing at sfmta.com/hearing. If your protest is denied by the hearing officer, you can appeal to the Superior Court as instructed in the letter from the hearing officer.

ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT:

You may be eligible to work off fines or establish a payment plan in lieu of paying parking and transit citations. This does not apply to citations in special collections or for vehicles that have been booted or towed.

PARKING GARAGES:

City-run parking lots and garages are a convenient, affordable option for many drivers. They also offer little risk of getting a parking ticket. There are 19 public parking garages and 20 parking lots across the city. For a complete list and rates, please go to sfmta.com/parking



This brochure includes important information about towed vehicles, parking citations, rights to appeal, fines and the right to hearings. For free language assistance and more information, call 311 (or 415-701-2311 outside of the 415 area code).

Kabilang sa polyetong ito ang mahalagang impormasyon tungkol sa mga hinilang sasakyan, mga pasabi sa paglabag sa pagparada ng sasakyan (parking citation), mga karapatan na umapela, mga multa at karapatan sa mga pagdinig. Para sa libheng tulong sa wika at higit pang impormasyon, tumawag sa 311 (o 415-701-2311 para sa nasa labas ng area code 415).

Este folleto incluye información importante acerca de los vehículos remolcados, citaciones de estacionamiento, derechos de apelación, multas y el derecho a audiencia. Para obtener ayuda gratuita con el idioma y más información, llame al 311 (o 415-701-2311 fuera del código de área 415).

這本小冊子包括有關被拖車輛、停車罰單、上訴權利、罰款和聽證會權利的重要資訊。如需免費語言協助及更多資訊，請致電 311 (或415區號以外的區域致電415-701-2311)。