

Don't Park in the Same Place in Permit Areas

In permit areas you must move your vehicle after the posted time limit 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 drive around and then park in the same block, or you can be ticketed!

Parking Meters

All San Francisco parking meters and paystations accept payment by coin, credit/debit card and phone. As long as they can accept at least one form of physical payment, it's not considered broken and must be paid. Most parking meters in the city operate Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; with the exception of:

- Fisherman's Wharf: Seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Embarcadero: Seven days a week, starting at either 7 or 9 a.m. and ending at either 10 or 11 p.m.
- Near Oracle Park or Chase Center: Monday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and on Sundays before and during events

Some meters become tow-away zones during commute hours. Meters are enforced on all holidays, except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Please check the meters for hours of operation.

Loading Zones

Passenger Loading (White) Zones

White zones are for passenger loading and unloading, with a time limit of five minutes. Check signs or stencils on the curb for the days and hours of enforcement. If you see a zone without any days and hours of enforcement posted on signs or the curb, please take a picture and report it to 311. The driver must remain with the vehicle at all times (except at preschools, childcare, and medical facilities). Some white zones are restricted to certain types of vehicles, such as taxis or tour buses—these restrictions will be displayed on signs at the zones.

General Loading Zones

General loading zones provide short-term access to the curb for drivers to pick up or drop off people or goods and are not restricted to commercial vehicles. Unlike passenger loading zones, drivers may leave their vehicle unattended for up to five minutes.

Commercial Loading (Yellow) Zones

Yellow zones are for commercial vehicles actively loading and unloading. Drivers of non-commercial vehicles may also use yellow zones for loading or unloading as long as they stay with the vehicle and leave within three minutes. Drivers of non-commercial vehicles may also use yellow zones for loading or unloading as long as they stay with the vehicle and leave within three minutes. Check nearby signs or stencils on the curb for effective hours. Failure to adhere to the posted rules may result in a vehicle being cited and/or towed.

Six-Wheel Truck Loading Zones

Six-wheel truck loading zones are indicated by signs or yellow curb paint and are limited to use by six-wheel trucks actively loading and unloading.

In areas with single-space parking meters, six-wheel truck loading zones also may be marked by red-capped meters. 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" or "No Stopping" zones. Do not park in a red zone at any time. Watch for red zones at:

- Bus stops
- Edges of driveways
- Intersection corners
- Fire hydrants
- Curb ramps

Tips to Help You Park Correctly

Check for Signs

Always check for posted parking and street sweeping times. Look 100 feet in both directions for any sign. 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. Call 311 to report any defaced, deficient or missing parking signs.

Check Your Bumpers

Check your front and rear bumpers to make sure they are not extending into an area where you could be cited and/or towed, like a driveway, crosswalk, no-parking or no-stopping zone or loading zone. Check your front and rear bumpers to make sure they are not extending into an area where you could be cited and/or towed, like a driveway, crosswalk, no-parking or no-stopping zone or loading zone.

Give Driveway Owners Space to Get in and Out

A driveway begins at the top of the sloped edges, or the "curb cut." Some driveways may have red tips—red curb coloring on the curb cuts and space next to it. Parking in the red tip or within the cut curbs may result in your vehicle being cited and/or towed.

Don't Use Objects to Claim On-Street Parking

Don't use objects like traffic cones or trash cans to claim on-street parking spots. If you need a temporary "No Parking" or "No Stopping" zone for a moving van or special event, you may request one through SFMTA's Temporary Signage Program. Visit [SFMTA.com/permits/temporary-signage](https://www.sfmta.com/permits/temporary-signage).



Avoid a Tow!

Sign up to receive a text notification if your vehicle is at risk of being towed for certain violations. Vehicle owners enrolled in the program avoided a tow close to 50% of the time during the first two years of the program. Visit [SFMTA.com/TextBeforeTow](https://www.sfmta.com/TextBeforeTow).



WELCOME TO THE WORLD-FAMOUS STREETS OF SAN FRANCISCO

Whether you're a visitor or a long-time resident, this brochure provides guidance to help you comply with San Francisco parking regulations and avoid getting cited or towed. More in-depth information about San Francisco parking rules can be found under the **Getting Around** section at [SFMTA.com](https://www.sfmta.com)

311 Free language assistance / 免費語言協助 / Ayuda gratis con el idioma / Бесплатная помощь переводчиков / Trợ giúp Thông dịch Miễn phí / Assistance linguistique gratuite / 無料の言語支援 / Libreng tulong para sa wikang Filipino / 무료 언어 지원



SFMTA



Know These Citywide Parking Rules

Many parking rules apply even if they are not posted on signs—make sure to keep these rules in mind no matter where you park in the city.

Curb Your Tires on Hills

When you park on a hill (3% grade or steeper), 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. This rule applies throughout the city, even if signs aren't posted.

- Headed downhill, turn your front wheels into the curb or toward the side of the road. Set your parking brake.
- Headed uphill, turn your front wheels away from the curb and let your vehicle roll back a few inches. The wheel should gently touch the curb. Set your parking brake.

You can confirm the grade of a street by going to the Department of Public Works Street Grade Map (<https://bsm.sfdpw.org/subdivision/keymap>).

Don't Park on Any Part of the Sidewalk

A vehicle parked on any part of a sidewalk may 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 mostly within a driveway. Sidewalks are the area between the curb and the building property line. Motorcycles are not exempt from sidewalk parking regulations. Bicycles may be parked on the sidewalk, but their owners must ensure that the pedestrian path is safe and clear.

Tips for Parking Next to Your Own Driveway

Residents may block their own driveway by parking parallel to the curb or street, only if the vehicle's license plate is registered to the building's address and if the driveway serves two or fewer units.

Other parking regulations, including street sweeping and parking more than 72 hours still apply. But keep in mind: because state law prohibits parking within 20 feet of the approach side of an intersection (the right of the street on a two-way street, both sides of the street on a one-way street), you may not park next to your driveway if it is within that 20 feet.

Park within 18 Inches of the Curb

When parking parallel (with the side of your car against the curb), make sure your wheels are within 18 inches of the curb. The only exception is when there are officially designated signs or pavement markings allowing for angled or perpendicular parking, or in areas where parking is separated from the curb by a bicycle lane.

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, even if it is otherwise parked legally.

Watch for Crosswalks

It is illegal to park in any marked or unmarked crosswalks. Never block curb ramps found inside or next to crosswalks.

Don't Park in the Daylighting Zone

Effective January 1, 2024, state law prohibits parking within 20 feet of an approach to any crosswalk, even when there are no signs or markings (California Vehicle Code 22500(n)). This is to improve pedestrian safety. Warnings may be issued through 2024. Effective January 1, 2025, violations will be subject to a minimum fine of \$40. Visit [SFMTA.com/Daylighting](https://www.sfmta.com/daylighting).

Don't Park in One Place for More Than 72 Hours

In the absence of other posted restrictions, such as residential parking permit (RPP) zones, street sweeping, meters or posted time limits, a vehicle parked more than 72 hours in one spot may be cited and/or towed for overtime parking. A warning notice will be affixed to the vehicle's windshield and wheels will be marked. A Residential Parking Permit or Disabled Parking Placard does not provide an exemption from this restriction, nor does being otherwise legally parked in front of one's own driveway.

This restriction is generally enforced as a result of complaints from residents who have concerns about vehicles being stored or abandoned in their neighborhoods. The SFMTA requests that residents wait for approximately 72 hours before reporting a stored or abandoned vehicle—a policy that tends to help prevent harassment or abuses of the overtime parking program.

Expired Registration/Hazardous Vehicles

Vehicles parked on public streets may be cited and towed immediately under any of the following circumstances:

- Have registration that is expired in excess of 6 months
- Obstruct or pose a hazard to traffic
- Block a driveway
- Are obviously disabled and inoperable

Parking is Allowed After Sweeping

Sweeping the streets keeps them clean, and street sweeping citations discourage vehicle owners from blocking the street sweeping truck's path.

Once the street sweeping truck has swept the curbside, you may park your vehicle there, even if the posted sweeping hours have not expired.

Parking Privileges for People with Disabled Parking Placards

With a properly displayed disabled placard or disabled license plate (including one issued by a different state or country) you may park in any of the following zones, so long as the person to whom the placard is issued is being transported:

- Blue zones
- General metered parking zones without paying
- Green zones
- Residential Parking Permit areas
- Areas with posted time limits (e.g. a one-hour zone in a business district)
- A disabled placard does NOT exempt the vehicle from all other citation and/or tow-away rules and No-parking, no-stopping or other red zones
- During street-cleaning hours
- During posted commercial loading hours (look for signs, yellow curb or yellow or red meters)
- During posted passenger loading hours (look for signs or white curb)
- During posted commuter tow-away hours (check for tow-away signs within 100 feet in both directions of a parking space)
- For more than 72 hours in any space

Watch for Tow-Away Zones

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

Watch for Construction Zones

It is illegal to stop or park in a temporary construction tow-away zone. Temporary "No Stopping - Tow Away" signs for construction projects must be posted at least 72 hours prior to the parking restriction, or only 24 hours prior on blocks with parking meters.

Don't Park in Special Event Zones

Temporary "No Stopping" restrictions may be posted for street fairs, parades, other special events or moving vans. Temporary parking restriction signs must be posted at least 72 hours prior to taking effect (or at least 24 hours prior on blocks with parking meters). The signs apply to all vehicles parked within 100 feet (or within 50 feet for residential or commercial moves) of the sign.

Residential Permit Parking (RPP)

The purpose of the RPP program is to make it easier for residents to park in their neighborhood. In RPP areas, visitors who park their cars must adhere to posted time limits; the time limits do not apply to drivers with a valid permit. Permit holders may buy permits for short-term guests, medical providers or caregivers. More information can be found at [SFMTA.com/rpp](https://www.sfmta.com/rpp)

Pay or Permit Parking

In some RPP areas, visitors must pay for parking (using their mobile device or a paystation), while permit holders may park for free. Look for signs that say "Pay or Park...except [area letter] permits." For more information, visit [SFMTA.com/PayOrPermit](https://www.sfmta.com/PayOrPermit).