

Private Parking Lot Towing Regulations



The Vehicle for Hire Bylaw became effective on November 1, 1998. The following towing requirements are summarized, for convenience purposes in this brochure.

City Approval

Property owners or their authorized agent must seek and receive approval from the City prior to commencing with towing activities on their private parking lot. The following are exemptions:

No parking area:

- A.** On private property towing can occur in “**no parking areas**” **without a towing permit** provided the area is **clearly marked**.
- B.** The “**no parking area**” is **defined** as an area kept clear for the following purposes:
 - a) Emergency vehicle access;
 - b) Emergency exit route for pedestrians; or
 - c) Garbage disposal vehicle access; and
 - d) Which has been designated by the owner, in accordance with this bylaw, as an area where parking of vehicles is not permitted.
- C.** No Parking Area **must be clearly marked** with yellow paint on the curb and/or roadway or by other clearly visible means.

A tow-away sign is clearly displayed adjacent to the no parking area indicating:

- a) That vehicles parked in the no parking area will be towed;

- b) Display the name and telephone number of the towing company, which will remove unauthorized vehicles from the property, and the location to which towed vehicles will be taken; and
- c) A completed Part A of a Tow-away Notice, which the name of the person authorizing the vehicle tow must be clearly printed, still needs to be placed on the vehicle by the property owner, business tenant, employee or agent, none of whom may be in the employ of a towing company.

Towing of any vehicle which is improperly parked for a period of 24 hours or longer.

A Towing Permit Application Form can be obtained at the Permit Centre in City Hall.

Towing Process

Preparation to tow a vehicle:

- 1.** Approval to enforce parking on this lot through towing must be first obtained from the City, unless otherwise exempted; and
- 2.** A Tow-Away Notice (Part A) must be completed by the authorized representative and placed on the vehicle by the authorized representative. The authorized representative’s name must be clearly printed on the notice.

In order to proceed with the removal of a vehicle, a tow-truck driver must:

- 1.** Complete and place Part B of the Tow-Away Notice on the vehicle at the time of the tow; and

- 2.** Release the vehicle immediately if it becomes re-occupied after it has been attached to a tow-truck. A drop fee will apply.

Tow-Truck Drivers May Not:

- 1.** Obstruct or attach the tow-truck to a vehicle on a private parking lot on which parking is time-regulated, until 30 minutes have elapsed from the expiration of the regulated time limit;
- 2.** Tow a vehicle from a private parking lot unless it is taken **directly** to a vehicle impound lot;
- 3.** In the case of a reserved tenant stall, the tow truck driver must ensure that 10 minutes have elapsed; and
- 4.** A tow truck licensee or operator must not charge a vehicle owner any fee for the services of any agent of the owner of the property from which the vehicle was towed, or any other fees or charges other than those set out in Section 43.05 of the BC Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.

Towing Rates

The rates that a tow company can charge are set in Section 43.05 of the BC Motor Vehicle Act Regulations.