

**TORONTO POLICE SERVICE
PARKING ENFORCEMENT UNIT**



**WORKING
WITH
YOUR
COMMUNITY**



Why do we **tag and tow?**

Safety and public convenience are the two most important reasons.

- Safety hazards occur when a vehicle obstructs the visibility of traffic and pedestrians at a stop sign, blocks a fire hydrant or emergency vehicle access.
- Traffic delays and grid-lock may result when even one vehicle stops momentarily, blocking a lane during rush hour. Motorist frustration and the possibility of "road rage" increases.
- Blocked driveways and permit parking zone violators impact parking in residential neighbourhoods.
- Meters and time-limit parking zones are designed to allow short-term parking in high-traffic areas. Motorists who leave vehicles parked over the time-limit frustrate others who wish to shop and do business. Public convenience and the viability of a business district depends upon convenient parking.



Keeping things **moving**

Parking Enforcement Officers patrol 24 hours a day, seven days a week on foot, by bicycle and in vehicles. We use a combination of information sharing, ticketing and impounding to enhance safety and convenience for all users of our roads.

In many instances, posted signs notify drivers of parking regulations. Whenever possible, officers may inform motorists how to park legally and avoid a ticket. A parking ticket may be issued, which imposes a fine on the registered owner of the vehicle. The final step is to tow and impound the offending vehicle. There is no waiting period before towing a vehicle for a parking violation on city streets.

Drivers leaving their vehicles in bus stops, no stopping zones, no standing zones, rush hour routes or parking illegally around schools will not be warned. These vehicles will be ticketed and towed immediately.



THE PARKING ENFORCEMENT UNIT: *at your service*

Parking Enforcement Officers **immediate response**

- The Parking Enforcement Unit is responsible for ensuring compliance with City parking by-laws.
- Parking Enforcement Officers respond to parking complaints.
- Over 90,000 calls for service are dispatched yearly.

To call for a Parking Enforcement Officer, contact the Toronto Police Service at (416) 808-2222.

Area Supervisors **exploring long-term solutions**

- Parking Enforcement Area Supervisors are at your service. Area Supervisors work with community members to explore, evaluate and problem-solve parking related issues affecting the community.
- Area Supervisors work with Business Improvement Associations, City of Toronto Councillors and City of Toronto Transportation Services to provide workable long-term solutions to neighbourhood parking problems.
- Area Supervisors are available for consultation by calling the Toronto Police Service, Parking Enforcement Unit. A call taker will be pleased to direct your call to the appropriate Area Supervisor.

To explore long-term solutions to neighbourhood parking problems, contact your Area Supervisor at (416) 808-6600.

 Toronto Police Service
40 College St.
Toronto, Ontario
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Watch for signs.

As the pressure for on-street parking continues to build, more areas of Toronto have posted parking restrictions. New residential permit parking zones are added each year, time limit areas expand and rush hour signs multiply. Signs without specific times listed are in effect 24 hours a day. Tow away signs are posted in some areas as an extra reminder, but are not required for vehicles to be towed.

Read the parking meters and machines.

Hurried motorists often forget to check the information on the meter or pay and display machine before depositing coins or employing other payment methods. Always make sure you check the days and hours the meter is in effect or whether there are rush hour restrictions which require the vehicle to be moved.

Be courteous – Do not park in the disabled parking spaces.

Show consideration for the parking spaces reserved exclusively for vehicles displaying valid Disabled Person Parking Permits both on-street and on private property. When non-permit holders park in these spaces, those with disabilities are often left with no other parking alternative.

Stay away from corners.

The space at the end of the block is an inviting temptation to the frustrated driver looking for a parking space. Beware! The City of Toronto requires vehicles to park at least 9 metres from the curb line of the intersecting street. The corner clearance by-law is intended to provide pedestrians, cyclists and motorists with a clear field of vision and plenty of space when approaching intersections.

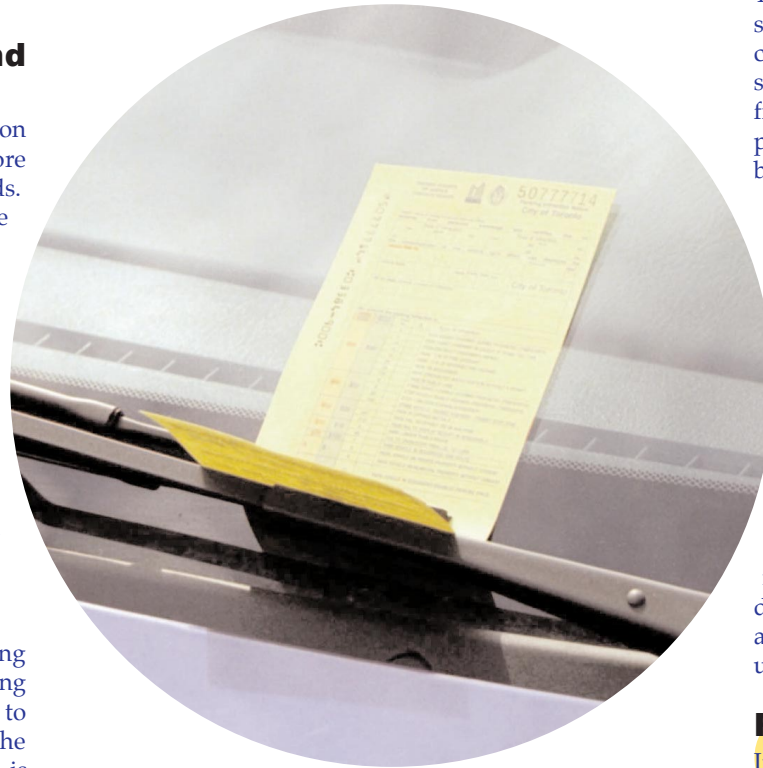
Leave bus stops for buses.

Drivers often pull into bus stops to wait for a friend, buy a cup of coffee or use a bank machine. Even a quick stop blocks the zone, forcing transit drivers to unload or load passengers on the street. This is a potential hazard for elderly and disabled passengers and an inconvenience for other motorists when the bus is unable to pull into the zone.

TOP

10

ways to avoid receiving a parking ticket



Use off-street parking.

Do your meetings run late? Does the doctor keep you waiting? Utilizing off-street parking options will avoid the hassle of worrying about an expired meter, moving your vehicle out of a time limit area, or your vehicle being subject to rush hour route provisions. The purpose of metered and time limit areas is to encourage the turnover of vehicles in places where there is a high demand for on-street parking. If your appointment requires longer term parking, save the cost of a ticket and use a parking lot.

Park safely at schools.

It's 3:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon, hundreds of elementary school children are heading home. Parents are waiting to pick them up. Where can these vehicles park safely? Most schools have signed areas that are designed to accommodate motorists dropping off or picking up children. Drivers should not use the *no stopping* or *no parking* zones in the vicinity of schools. These areas are usually located on either side of the street near schools and must be kept clear to provide clear visibility for motorists and students. Drivers should never double park to load or discharge children from their vehicles. This places children in a dangerous position of crossing a lane of traffic without seeing or being seen by other motorists.

Know the difference between: "no parking", "no stopping" and "no standing".

The *no stopping anytime* and *no standing anytime* symbols are the most restrictive parking regulations in Toronto. Once a vehicle has ceased moving, even if occupied, it is deemed stopped or standing. If a driver chooses to stop or stand in any of these zones, they can be ticketed and towed. The *no parking anytime* symbol is less restrictive. Drivers are allowed to use these zones while actually engaged in loading or unloading goods or to pick up or discharge passengers. Remember, the key is "while actually engaged". Do not leave your vehicle unattended in these areas.

Respect residential parking restrictions.

In responding to neighbourhood concerns about parking pressures, the City of Toronto has established many residential permit parking zones. These areas are clearly posted and for the exclusive use of area residents during posted times. Other parking alternatives are available for visitors and service people.

Err on the side of caution.

Have I parked too close to the corner? What do those signs mean? Am I blocking another vehicle? If you're not sure, find another spot. Parking Enforcement receives thousands of complaints each year from people inconvenienced by a poor parking decision.

Toronto Police Service

mission statement

We are dedicated to delivering policing services, in partnership with our communities, to keep Toronto the best and safest place to be.



Parking Enforcement Unit

statement of purpose

The purpose of Parking Enforcement within the City of Toronto is to:

- Assist with the safe and orderly flow of traffic
- Respond to the parking concerns of the community
- Regulate parking
- Provide operational support to the Toronto Police Service

