

## GENERAL PARKING RULES FOR THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM

This brochure provides a summary of general parking rules within the city. It is not intended to be all-inclusive. Governing code detailing parking laws within the city can be found in Title 11 of the **Bellingham Municipal Code**.

**TAKE THE TIME TO PARK PROPERLY. By following these general rules you'll likely avoid being issued a citation :**



- Note and adhere to regulating **signs**, curb markings and street signs. Watch especially for permit parking areas or areas where parking may be prohibited in early morning hours to accommodate street sweeping.
- Park in the same direction as traffic flow. Normally on a one-way street your right wheels should be next to the curb. Parking is parallel unless otherwise marked.
- When angle parking, park with the front of your vehicle to the curb.
- Park no more than 12 inches from the curb or edge of the roadway.
- Park within marked space designations, assuring that no part of your vehicle extends into an adjacent space or into the drive lane.

## WHO TO CALL FOR PARKING-RELATED ISSUES OR QUESTIONS:

To report parking violations, or inquire about vehicle impounds, parking enforcement officers or parking enforcement practices:

**City of Bellingham Police Department/  
Traffic Division**  
505 Grand Avenue -  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360.778.8800 -

To report meter or pay station malfunctions, inquire about downtown, mechanics' vehicle, or residential parking permits, arrange for meter hoods or to request a change to an on-street parking configuration:

**City of Bellingham Public Works/  
Parking Services Division**  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360.778.7780  
[parksmart@cob.org](mailto:parksmart@cob.org)

Detailed parking ticket instructions can be found on the back of the ticket and yellow envelope. For on-line citation payment visit: <https://www.cob.org/parkingpayments/>. If you have other court-related questions:

**City of Bellingham Judicial &  
Support Services**  
2014 C Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360.778.8150 -

For general questions or if you are uncertain who to call, Parking Services staff will be happy to assist you:  
[parksmart@cob.org](mailto:parksmart@cob.org) or 360.778.7780.



## CITY OF BELLINGHAM

### GENERAL PARKING INFORMATION



**BELLINGHAM POLICE  
DEPARTMENT/TRAFFIC  
DIVISION**



**BELLINGHAM PUBLIC  
WORKS/PARKING  
SERVICES DIVISION**

## COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN PARKING IN BELLINGHAM



### DO NOT PARK:

- Where signs or curb markings prohibit parking.
- In excess of time limits posted.
- In alleys. Paved or gravel areas do not necessarily indicate where the alley begins or ends.
- If your vehicle has expired registration, license tabs or improperly displayed license plates.
- Any vehicle, including recreational vehicles, on a city right-of-way in excess of 24 hours. Vehicles may not be stored on any public street or right-of-way.
- On or within 20-feet of a crosswalk, whether marked or unmarked.
- Within 30 feet of a stop or yield sign.
- In a fire lane or within 15 feet of a fire hydrant.
- In special zones restricted for police, taxis, bus stops or vehicle loading.
- In front of or within 5 feet of a driveway, alley entrance or cross street.
- In or blocking access to a bike lane.
- A vehicle on the street for the purpose of selling it or to post signs advertising for a business.
- A vehicle on the street for the primary purpose of washing, greasing, tuning or repairing it.
- Inoperable or leaking vehicles on city streets, alleys or right-of-ways.

- In a disabled parking space unless you display a valid disabled plate or placard and the disabled person is using the vehicle. -
- Any detached trailer on any city street or alley. Trailers must be attached to a tow vehicle. -
- On sidewalks, planting strips or lawn areas.
- Any vehicle over 80 inches wide except on streets in manufacturing or industrial zones.
- A semi-truck in a residential zone. -
- Within 10 feet of, hindering or blocking access to a mail receptacle. -



- In passenger or material load zones unless actively loading or unloading persons or goods. To otherwise sit, stand or park in a load zone is to risk citation.

- A motorcycle or scooter (over 50cc's) on a sidewalk or in areas not designated for parking, such as on a sidewalk or at the end of a parking strip.

### IN METERED AREAS:

- Don't park without depositing the required payment in the meter or pay station when meter hours are in effect. Hours are posted on meters.
- Where parking time is limited, do not park in the same space where your paid parking time has expired. You must move to another block face to re-park your vehicle.
- Don't block multiple spaces with an oversized vehicle without paying for each occupied space.

## CURB COLORS DECIPHERED

Within the city you'll notice areas where the curb is colored to mark specific parking restrictions. Unless otherwise posted, these restrictions are in effect 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. Limits are as follows:



- **YELLOW CURB** - No parking allowed at any time. Violation \$20. -
- **GREEN CURB** - Passenger or material loading or unloading only. Violation \$20. -
- **BLUE CURB** - Disabled license plate or placard required. Violation \$450. -
- **GREY CURB** - The spot was previously restricted parking but has been returned to standard use. -

## VEHICLE IMPOUNDS

Some parking violations may result in immediate impound of your vehicle such as for outstanding parking violations or if your vehicle is impeding or likely to impede the normal flow of vehicular or pedestrian traffic. If your vehicle must be impounded you may be liable for additional fees for towing and storage.



## IF YOU THINK YOUR VEHICLE MAY HAVE BEEN IMPOUNDED: :-

Contact **Bellingham Police Department** (778-8800) to confirm whether or not the vehicle has been impounded and for instructions on how to redeem your vehicle.