



PALM SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT TRAFFIC BUREAU

Parking & Towing Q&As

Parking laws are meant to keep drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians safe. Officers issue citations while on patrol and when residents make complaints. Common violations include expired registration, 72-hour parking, no stopping, and fire lane violations. To view more common parking violations, please visit our Traffic Bureau web-page.



Why is it tougher for law enforcement to tow vehicles?

State law (22650 CVC) was changed in 2019 and created an additional rule for police to remove vehicles (Assembly Bill 2876). A violation of law alone does not authorize the removal of a vehicle by a police officer, there must be a community caretaking function (CCF). A CCF means that there is a need to remove a vehicle to protect public safety, such as obstructing traffic, a safety hazard (broken glass, leaking oil, public health), or is vulnerable to vandalism or theft. In effect, vehicles can be towed but with significant limitations.

How do police remove vehicles?

The process starts with a Citizen complaint or an officer on patrol observing a violation. Below are the steps:

1. Officer checks vehicle for violation (for example 72 hour, abandoned, expired registration, street maintenance/repairs)
2. Officer tags and logs vehicle and returns after 72 hours (if necessary)
3. If no community caretaking need is present, the officer may issue a warning or citation
4. If there is a community caretaking need present, then the officer may remove the vehicle.

Common vehicle removal codes:

14602.6 CVC – driving without a license or with a suspended license

22651 CVC – expired registration over 6 months, parked over 72 hours, obstructing a fire hydrant, obstructing street repair/maintenance, obstructing driveway*

22669 CVC – abandoned vehicle (missing parts making them unsafe to drive or inoperable and a hazard)

* Due to COVID-19, the DMV has extended vehicle registrations.

If you have a question about parking violations or towing a vehicle, please call the Traffic Bureau at 760-323-8125 or email us at Alan.Donovan@palmsspringsca.gov.

