



Towing Fact Sheet

What Can I Do When My Vehicle Has Been Towed Away?

First of all, make sure that your vehicle has been towed:

- Check the [Auto Plus Towing](#) website to find out the current status of your vehicle.
- Call the Police Department Records Division at (510) 238-3021 to confirm that your vehicle has been towed.

Once you confirm that your vehicle has been towed:

- If your vehicle has been towed, you **must** go to the Oakland Police Department Records Kiosk on the first floor of the Police Administration Building, 455 - 7th Street (7th and Broadway), to obtain a release for your vehicle. ***Without a release from the Police Department, the tow company will not release your vehicle.*** You must go to the Police Department first.
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How Can I Have a Vehicle Investigated and Towed Away?

Once a call for service is received, a Police Service Technician goes to the scene and investigates the complaint. One of several outcomes will occur:

- The vehicle may be towed away on first check, using several California Vehicle Code Sections such as Expired Registration over Six Months, Five or More Unpaid Parking Tickets, or Missing Vehicle Parts Needed to Operate.
 - The vehicle may have a Courtesy Warning Sticker applied to the windshield giving notice that the vehicle tire mark must be broken within the next 72 hours. In this case:
 - The Police Service Technician records the vehicle's odometer reading and marks a tire for recheck after the 72 hours have passed.
 - If the vehicle tire mark remains unbroken after 72 hours have passed, the vehicle will be towed.
 - The Police Service Technician may determine that the vehicle is not abandoned and clearly is driven on a regular basis. If this is the case, no further action will be taken.
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A Vehicle That Was Towed Away Has Come Back. What Happened?

All vehicles towed by the Abandoned Auto Detail can be retrieved by the owner after a fee is paid to the City and the tow company. Apparently the vehicle's owner has not abandoned it, after all.

What Will Happen If the Vehicle's Owner Removes the Courtesy Warning Sticker and Does Not Move the Vehicle?

A Police Service Technician recorded the odometer reading and marked a tire when he or she issued the Courtesy Warning Sticker. Whether or not the Courtesy Sticker is still on the vehicle's windshield, the Police Service Technician will return after 72 hours and check the vehicle for compliance by examining the odometer reading and tire marker.

What Should I Do If My Vehicle Has a Warning Sticker on It?

- To comply with the law, you must drive the vehicle at least one mile in the 72 hours following the time the sticker was applied.
- If you drive the vehicle one mile or more in the 72 hours after application of the sticker, no further action will be taken.