

Do you drive a vehicle? A guide to parking legally in St. Catharines

The City of St. Catharines is committed to providing high-quality and available parking to enhance the quality of life for our residents and visitors. Tickets may be given to owners or operators of motor vehicles who fail to obey parking by-laws. Here are some tips to help drivers **avoid parking tickets**, which can assist in making St. Catharines a more enjoyable place to park and drive.

Did you know:

- That only the person who is issued a valid Accessible Parking Permit, and is travelling and exiting the vehicle may use it to park in an Accessible Space? The **set penalty for unauthorized parking in an accessible space is \$300.**
- That the set **penalty for parking in a fire route is \$80?** Fire routes are for all designated emergency vehicles, such as fire, ambulance and police.
- That the set **penalty for parked on lands other than parking area is \$100?**
- That there are many violations for parking illegally, which are not posted by a sign, and as a driver you are required to know them? Examples are:
 - Leaving an oversized vehicles or unhooked trailer on St. Catharines roadways is a \$75 set penalty.
 - Parking too close to a fire hydrant, within 1.5M of a driveway, on a boulevard, facing the wrong way, within 10 metres of an intersection or on the roadway for longer than 12 hours at a time all have a set penalty of \$30.
 - Standing where prohibited in a transit bus zone, or obstructing a lane or driveway is a \$40 set penalty
 - Stopping or parking on, or partly over, a sidewalk is a \$48 set penalty. Be courteous to pedestrians and don't block the sidewalk.

- Loading zones are strictly for commercial vehicles for the purpose of, and actually engaged in, loading / unloading freight or merchandise. The set penalty for parking in loading zones is \$48.
- That meters and short term parking lots downtown will soon have a two-hour limit, to ensure parking space turnover. The two municipal parking garages between Ontario Street and William Street; and Garden Park/Carlisle are both equipped for full-day, pay-on-exit operation, for the convenience of a longer stay.

Unauthorized Parking can get a vehicle tagged and/or towed without warning

All parking fines can be disputed to a screening officer appointed by the City.

Under the new system, a person can ask for a review of their parking ticket by requesting a screening. City staff will then set a date and time for the individual to meet with the City's screening officer, with the review now held at City Hall rather than regional court.

Disputes will be held within one to two months of the request being made, while under the previous system disputes took up to six months to be addressed. Screening requests can be filed by phone, in person or in writing and forms can be downloaded at www.stcatharines.ca/IGotaParkingTicket.

Those looking to dispute a parking ticket must do so within 15 calendar days from the date of issue.

There is no cost to request a review; however, failure to attend a scheduled screening appointment will result in a \$25 administrative fee being added to the penalty amount.

Changes to the appeal process are part of the Administrative Monetary Penalties System (APS) introduced province wide under Ontario Regulation 333/07 of the Municipal Act, 2001. Under the new system parking tickets have been renamed Penalty Notices, but to avoid confusion residents can still find information by visiting www.stcatharines.ca/ParkingTickets.

Parking in recreational areas during summer months

Parking where prohibited during the summer months in the areas of City beaches and Morningstar Mill carry increased penalties.

During the months of May, June, July, August and September fines for prohibited parking in the areas of Morningstar Mill, Jones Beach, Lakeside Park, and Sunset Beach increase to \$100.

On Street Parking in St. Catharines during the winter months

Parking is not allowed on Regional Roads between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. at any time during the year. Parking at meters on streets in the downtown core is not allowed between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. at any time during the year and carries a \$30 set penalty.

During snow removal activities, vehicles left parked on the street or in a municipal lot in the downtown core may be towed to a nearby municipal lot at the owner's expense.

Within 24 hours of a snow event, any vehicle observed snow covered and parked on the street with no evidence of moving, will be subject to a penalty notice and immediate tow, which means the City will automatically enforce the 12-hour parking restriction as per the Parking By-law.



Information provided by Parking Enforcement. Click here to email [Parking Enforcement](#).