

Towing Regulations in Colorado and Front Range Communities

HindmanSanchez P.C. Attorneys at Law • Denver & Fort Collins 5610 Ward Road., Suite 300, Arvada, Colorado 80002-1310 Tel 303.432.9999 Free 800.809.5242 Fax 303.432.0999 www.hindmansanchez.com



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Colorado State Law on Towing: C.R.S. §42-4-1803 (Colorado Model Traffic Code):

(1) No person shall abandon any motor vehicle upon public property. Any sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, marshal, Colorado state patrol officer, or an agent of the Colorado bureau of investigation who finds a motor vehicle which such officer has reasonable grounds to believe has been abandoned shall require such motor vehicle to be removed or cause the same to be removed and placed in storage in any impound lot designated or maintained by the law enforcement agency employing such officer.

(2) Whenever any sheriff, undersheriff, deputy sheriff, police officer, marshal, Colorado state patrol officer, agent of the Colorado bureau of investigation, or an agency employee finds a motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris, attended or unattended, standing upon any portion of a highway right- of-way in such a manner as to constitute an obstruction to traffic or proper highway maintenance, such officer or agency employee is authorized to cause the motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris to be moved to eliminate any such obstruction; and neither the officer, the agency employee, nor anyone acting under the direction of such officer or employee shall be liable for any damage to such motor vehicle, vehicle, cargo, or debris occasioned by such removal. The removal process is intended to clear the obstruction, but such activity should create as little damage as possible to the vehicle, or cargo, or both. No agency employee shall cause any motor vehicle to be moved unless such employee has obtained approval from a local law enforcement agency of a municipality, county, or city and county, the Colorado bureau of investigation, or the Colorado state patrol.

<u>COUNTY</u>	CITY IN COUNTY	TOWING REGULATIONS
ADAMS COUNTY		In general, Adams County follows the Colorado Model Traffic Code when enforcing the towing of vehicles.
	Aurora	The Aurora Police has authorization to impound vehicles when the vehicle is:
		1. Causing an obstruction of traffic,
		2. Posing a threat to public health or safety.
		3. Abandoned.
		4. Left because the driver is taken into custody.
		5. Parked on a street that is scheduled for cleaning.
		6. Suspected of containing evidence of a crime.
		7. Violating a traffic ordinance.
		8. Suspected to have a driver who committed a crime.
		9. Unlawful.
		For a complete version of traffic code, visit <u>www.municode.com</u> .
		The Aurora Traffic Violations are found in the municipal code under Chapter 134, Traffic and Vehicles.
	Brighton	A vehicle will be towed if it is parked on private property without the owner's consent and it blocks other vehicles' access to the road, driveways, or garage entrances. This will be enforced whether or not the parking area is subject to towing.
		For a complete version of Brighton's towing regulations, call the
		Brighton City Clerk at 303-255-2013.
	Commerce City	The police can tow a vehicle if it is obstructing traffic, or if it is abandoned and obstructing traffic. A private property owner can tow a vehicle if the vehicle is abandoned on said property, but must notify the police after doing so with the vehicle's information as well as the address of the towing company.
		For a complete version of Commerce City's towing regulations visit <u>http://ordlink.com/codes/commerceco/index.htm</u> . The Commerce City Towing Regulations are found in the municipal code under Chapter 11, Motor Vehicles and Traffic.

Northglenn	The police will have the authority to tow a vehicle if:
	1. It is abandoned on private property without the consent of the owner and the police or the owner can tow it.
	2. Any motor vehicle left unattended on a public street for more than 24 hours, unless the owner has left a conspicuous note of his intention to return.
	3. A vehicle shall not be deemed abandoned until a bona-fide effort is made by the police officer to contact the owner unless the vehicle is blocking the movement of traffic.
	For more information regarding the Northglenn towing regulations, contact the Northglenn City Clerk:303-450-8756.
Thornton	If a motor vehicle is parked on real property, in a private driveway, in a private parking lot, or in any common area private parking lot without the express or implied consent of the owner, manager or person in lawful possession or control of such real property, and is unattended for a period of 24 hours or longer, the owner, manager or person in lawful possession of such real property may have a towing carrier licensed by the Public Utilities Commission tow and impound the motor vehicle.
	If the vehicle is obstructing other vehicles' movement, then the owner does not have to be given notice of the towing.
	Otherwise, after leaving a conspicuous notice for a seven-day period, the police can have the vehicle towed by an operator approved by the Public Utilities Commission. The towing operator is then responsible for giving the vehicle's appropriate information to the police.
	For a complete version of Thornton's towing regulations, visit <u>www.municode.com</u> .
	The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Article VII, Traffic and Vehicles, Division II, Model Traffic Code.

<u>ARAPAHOE</u> In Arapahoe County, oversized vehicles and unattended trailers are not permitted on public roadways. Violations of this COUNTY ordinance will lead to fines, and a third violation will allow the police to tow the vehicle. For a complete version of Arapahoe County's towing regulations, visit www.co.arapahoe.co.us/. The towing regulations are found under Ordinance No. 1 991-1, Oversized Vehicles and Unattended Trailers. <u>Cherry Hills</u> The Cherry Hills police will tow a vehicle if: 1. the owner has been arrested for a D.U.I. 2. the vehicle is a hazard to public safety. 3. the owner was arrested and the car can not be left where it is unattended. 4. the vehicle has been in a traffic accident. 5. if the vehicle is abandoned and/or obstructing traffic. 6. private property owners are responsible for towing on their property. For more information on towing regulations, contact the Police at 303-761-8711. Englewood The Englewood Police have authority to remove and tow a vehicle when: 1. the vehicle is obstructing traffic. 2. the vehicle's driver is unable to drive. 3. the vehicle is left unattended and running on a public street. 4. the vehicle is left unattended for more than 72 hours on a public street or private property and the owner requested its removal. 5. the vehicle is in an unsafe condition. 6. the vehicle has more than three outstanding tickets and the tickets were not paid within 45 days of issuance. For a complete version of Englewood's towing regulations, visit, www.municode.com. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Title 11, Public Ways. Glendale Generally, a vehicle will be towed in the City of Glendale if: 1. the driver is arrested and there is no authorized person to drive the car. 2. the vehicle is abandoned. Any vehicle left on a public street will be deemed abandoned since there is no parking on Glendale public streets and the vehicle will obstruct traffic. 3. the driver is operating the vehicle without a valid license. For a complete version of Glendale's towing regulations, one must go to the City of Glendale City Hall and examine the municipal code. The City Hall is located at 950 South Birch Street, Glendale, Colorado 80246. One can also call the Glendale City Hall at, 303-759-1513.

Greenwood Village	
Greenwood village	The police department is authorized to remove, immobilize,
	and impound any vehicle from public or private property
	under any of the following circumstances:
	1. when the vehicle is abandoned.
	2. when the vehicle, whether attended or unattended, is
	standing upon any portion of a public right_of_way, fire lane
	or emergency lane so as to constitute an obstruction or hazard
	to traffic, road maintenance, public safety, or emergency
	services, or a limitation on access to any public or private
	property.
	3. when the vehicle is parked or left standing upon any portion
	of a public street in violation of a parking restriction, provided
	such area has been posted with an official sign giving notice
	both of such restriction and of the fact that such area is a
	tow_away zone.
	4. when the driver has been taken into custody by the police
	department or other law enforcement official and the vehicle is
	thereby left unattended.
	5. when the driver is reasonably suspected of the unlawful use
	or misuse of license plates, or the vehicle is being driven or is
	parked on public property without license plates, or an invalid or expired license plate.
	6. when the driver refuses or is unable to display a valid
	driver's license.
	7. when the driver or the vehicle is reasonably suspected of
	involvement in a hit and run.
	8. when the vehicle is reasonably suspected of being stolen or
	parts that are stolen.
	9. when the vehicle is reasonably suspected of being evidence
	of a felony or misdemeanor, or when the vehicle is necessary
	for the preservation of evidence of the commission of a
	crime.
	10. when the vehicle is included on the City tow list.
	For more information on Greenwood Village's towing
	regulations, visit
	http://www.greenwoodvillage.com/municode/index.htm.
	The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under
	Title 10, Vehicles and Traffic.

	Littleton	 The Littleton police have the authority to tow a vehicle when: 1. the vehicle is obstructing traffic. 2. the vehicle is parked in a tow-away zone. 3. any vehicle that has obtained two parking tickets in the past twelve years and is over 10 days late in paying those tickets. 4. the vehicle is posing a potential safety hazard to the public. For a complete version of Littleton's towing ordinance, visit http://66.113.195.234/CO/Littleton/index.htm. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under section 6-6-5, Authorization to Tow.
BOULDER COUNTY		If a car is parked on a public street and is not obstructing traffic, it can only be towed if it has an expired registration or license plate. If the vehicle has an expired license or registration, the Boulder police will give the owner 24 hour notice before removing the vehicle. Unless a neighborhood gains permission from the city to put up no parking signs on the public streets, then people are generally allowed to park there. The police will only remove it if the registration or license is expired. For a complete version of Boulder County towing regulations, contact the Boulder County Sheriff's office at 303-441-4609.
	Boulder	 The Boulder police are authorized to tow a vehicle when: 1. the vehicle poses a hazard to other traffic. 2. when the vehicle poses a safety hazard. 3. when an unattended vehicle is left for 72 hours and obstructs street maintenance or emergency access. 4. the driver is taken into police custody. 5. there is probable cause to believe the vehicle is stolen. 6. the vehicle is blocking a private driveway. 7. the vehicle is parked in handicapped parking spot. 8. the vehicle is left unattended at a metered parking space for 72 hours. 9. the vehicle is suspected of vandalism or of a crime. For a complete version of Boulder's towing regulations, visit http://www.ci.boulder.co.us/cao/brc/7_7.html. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Chapter 7, Towing and Impoundment.

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Erie	The police are authorized to remove a vehicle when:
	 the vehicle is left unattended and poses an obstruction to traffic on a bridge, causeway or viaduct. the vehicle is posing an obstruction to traffic on the street and the owner is not in a condition to remove it. the vehicle is found upon the streets and is not in a condition to be driven. the vehicle is parked illegally upon the street so as to pose an obstruction to traffic or street maintenance. the driver is taken into custody by the police and the vehicle would be left unattended removal is necessary dues to fire, flood or some other emergency.
	For a complete version of Erie's towing regulations, contact the City Clerk, at (303) 926-2731, or 303-926-2730.
Lafayette	A private property owner has a right to have an abandoned vehicle towed from his property, but he must notify the Lafayette Police of his intent to do so. The towing operator must notify the police with the vehicle's identification and location information.
	The Lafayette Police have the right to tow an attended, or unattended vehicle when it is posing an obstruction to traffic or street maintenance.
	For a complete version of the Lafayette towing regulations, visit <u>www.municode.com.</u> The Lafayette towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Article III, Abandoned Motor Vehicles.
Louisville	It is not necessary for a vehicle to be cited in order for a private property owner in Louisville to tow the vehicle for said owner's property. The towing operator is responsible for notifying the police with the vehicle's identification and location information.
	Signs that prohibit unauthorized vehicle's from parking on the property are not necessary if the property is a single family home.
	For a complete version of Louisville's towing regulations, visit <u>www.municode.com</u> .
	The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Chapter 10.28, Parking on Private property.

	Superior	Superior follows the Boulder County towing regulations and the State of Colorado Model Traffic Code regulations. The general rule on private property is that the police will not tow unless it is posted. For more information on Superior's towing regulations, contact the City Clerk at 303-499-3679.
	Longmont	 The parking bureau keeps a list, called the Scofflaw list, of all vehicles that have received four or more tickets that have remained unpaid within the last thirty days. If the owner fails to contest or pay the tickets within the time allowed, the vehicle will be subject to immediate impoundment. In addition, police may remove a vehicle when: It is immobile or abandoned and causes an obstruction to traffic It is not in a proper condition to be driven. It poses a safety hazard to the public. It is parked in a tow-away zone. It's removal is necessary due to an emergency situation. It does not display the proper license plates and tags. The driver does not have a valid driver's license. It is parked illegally and left unattended. The driver is suspected of not having rightful possession of the car. For a complete version of Longmont's towing regulations, visit, http://bpc.iserver.net/codes/longmont/index.htm. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Title 11, Traffic.
<u>BROOMFIELD</u> <u>COUNTY</u>	Broomfield	 Broomfield police may remove a vehicle upon notification if it poses a safety concern to the public or if it is an unauthorized junk vehicle. For a complete version of Broomfield's towing regulations visit: www.ci.broomfield.co.us/code/index.htm. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under, Title 10, Vehicles & Traffic.

DENVER COUNTY	Denver	 The Denver Police have the authority to tow vehicles when: A vehicle is left unattended and poses an obstruction to traffic. A vehicle is disabled and poses an obstruction to traffic and the owner can not move it. The vehicle is parked illegally or in a tow-away area. When a vehicle is left abandoned, or appears to be abandoned for more than 72 hours. The driver is taken into custody leaving the vehicle abandoned on a roadway. The vehicle is blocking railroad tracks. The vehicle is a truck-tractor or semi-trailer parked in a metered space. The driver is taken into custody and the vehicle is suspected of stolen goods or contraband. The registered owner involved in a traffic violation or criminal violation fails to respond to a summons or complaint. For a complete version of Denver's towing regulations, visit www.municode.com.
DOUGLAS COUNTY		In general, Douglas County follows the Colorado Model Traffic Code dealing with abandoned vehicles. When a vehicle is on private property, it is generally up to the owner to remove the vehicle from the property. If an accident occurs and the owner is taken to the hospital, the police will tow the vehicle. If the vehicle is on a public street and is obstructing traffic, the police will tow it without giving the owner notice.
		For more information on the Douglas County towing regulations, contact 303-660-7505.

<u>Castle Rock</u>	If the abandoned, junked, or wrecked vehicle is upon a street or highway and is considered to be an obstruction to traffic or proper highway maintenance, then the Chief of Police or department officer shall cause the vehicle to be removed immediately. If the abandoned vehicle is not posing an obstruction to traffic, the police must give notice and wait 72 hours before towing the vehicle. If the abandoned vehicle is found upon private property, the police must wait 96 hours after providing notice before removing the vehicle. For a complete version of the Castle Rock towing regulations, visit <u>www.ci.castlerock.co.us</u> . The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Chapter 10, Vehicles and Traffic.
Highlands Ranch	Highlands Ranch is not a city with its own municipal ordinance, but would fall under Douglas County towing regulations.
<u>Lone-Tree</u>	 The city of Lone-Tree may tow a car if: 1. The vehicle has been parked on a public street for over 72 hours. 2. The vehicle has been abandoned on a public street for over 24 hours, unless the vehicle is disabled and the owner gives notice of his/her intent to return. For more information regarding the City of Lone-Tree's towing regulations, contact the Administrative Offices at: 303-708-1818. Lone-Tree's towing regulations are also enforced by Douglas County Sheriff's Department.
<u>Parker</u>	The police have authority to tow a vehicle if it is abandoned. After receiving no response after giving notice for 15 days, the police officer can issue a summons or complaint and have the vehicle towed. For a complete version of Parker's towing regulations visit, www.ci.parker.co.us. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Chapter 7.04, Abandoned Vehicles.

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	The police have the authority to tow a vehicle left unattended any motor vehicle upon any area or portion of a public street or place in violation of or contrary to a parking limitation or prohibition established by the County where such parking limitation or prohibition has been posted with a sign giving notice of such limitation or prohibition and notice that violators may be towed. For a complete version of the Jefferson County towing regulations visit,
	http://ww2.co.jefferson.co.us/ext/policy/tableofcontents.htm.
	The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under 55.5 Ordinance, Regulation of the Operation and Parking of Motor Vehicles.
Arvada	 The city manager or any designee has the authority to tow an abandoned vehicle that is posing an obstruction to traffic, or abandoned during an emergency situation. Also, the police can tow: A vehicle that is obstructing the clearing of a snow route. A vehicle is so disabled that it poses an obstruction to traffic A vehicle constitutes a public nuisance A vehicle is left for more than 24 hours on a public right-of-way When removal is necessary due to an emergency fire, flood or storm When the vehicle's owner is taken into custody Vehicle displays improper number plate or plates. Any abandoned, lost, stolen, junked, wrecked or inoperable vehicle on public or private property, subject to the requirements of notice and hearing contained in the Code of the City of Arvada. For a complete version of Arvada's towing regulations, visit www.municode.com.
Edgewater	Generally, the city of Edgewater will tow a vehicle if it is:
9-	1. Abandoned.
	2. Stolen.
	 3. Obstructing traffic. 4. The vehicle has expired plates.
	To find out more information about Edgewater's towing regulations, contact the police department at 303-235-0500.
	Arvada

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Evergreen	Evergreen is not a fully incorporated city, so look to the Jefferson County towing regulations for guidance.
Golden	The City of Golden police are authorized to tow and impound any vehicle: 1. Issued two or more parking citations which are unpaid, delinquent and outstanding at that time. 2. That is disabled and poses and obstruction to traffic 3. That poses a safety hazard to the public 4. Is left unattended and parked illegally and poses an obstruction to traffic 5. When the driver is taken into police custody 6. When the driver is reasonably suspected of a hit and run. 7. The vehicle or any part of the vehicle is suspected of being stolen 8. Any owner, tenant, lessee or agent may have an abandoned vehicle towed from private property. For a complete version of the City of Golden's towing regulations, visit http://goldengov.com/dept/city_clerk/municode/title5/509.pdf The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Chapter 5.09, Towing and Storage of Vehicles.

Lakewood	 Whenever a police agent finds any vehicle parked upon any public street or public right of way in violation of the parking restrictions or prohibitions contained on any official sign or signs or when any vehicle obstructs or interferes with the free flow of traffic, street maintenance, or access of emergency vehicles or equipment, a police agent may order the vehicle towed to an impound lot. In addition, the police will tow the vehicle if the owner has it parked for over 24 hours for the following reasons: Displaying such vehicle for sale; Painting or repairing such vehicle; Stripping or salvaging any part of or all of such vehicle; or Displaying advertising. Also, if a vehicle is abandoned upon a public right-of-way for more than 24 hours, the police have authority to impound the vehicle. For a complete version of the City of Lakewood's towing restrictions, visit http://www.ci.lakewood.co.us/govern/citycode/municodesho me.htm.
Morrison	The towing restrictions are found in the municipal code under Title 10, Vehicles & Traffic.Morrison follows the State of Colorado's Model Traffic Code when enforcing towing regulations.Generally, the if the vehicle is suspected to have been abandoned on public streets, the Morrison police will red-tag the vehicle and attempt to locate the owner. If the owner is not found within 48 hours, the police will tow the vehicle.For more information on Morrison's towing regulations contact the Morrison Police Department at, 303-697-4810.
Sheridan	If the police have reason to suspect the vehicle is abandoned, or left in an inoperable condition, then they can tow the vehicle after giving a 15-day notice to the owner, or the owner of the premises. For more information regarding towing regulations call the Sheridan City Clerk at 303-762-2200. Towing regulations are found in the municipal code, Chapter 14, Vehicles & Traffic.

	Westminster	A property owner can request to have a vehicle towed if it is left abandoned without permission for more than 24 hours upon the owner's property. The police have the authority to tow if: 1. The vehicle is parked upon a public thoroughfare, in violation of the municipal code. 2. The vehicle is left upon public thoroughfare and is presumed to be abandoned. A vehicle will presumed abandoned if it is left for a period of 48 hours or more on public or private property. For a complete version of the City of Westminster's towing restrictions, visit http://www.ci.westminster.co.us/code/default.htm. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under Title X, Traffic.
	Wheat Ridge	The police have the authority to tow a truck-tractor or semi- trailer parked on property within the city of Wheat Ridge unless the owner has a special permit, it is being loaded or unloaded, or it is used for the business whose property on which it is parked. Also, whenever any police officer finds a motor vehicle, attended or unattended, standing upon any portion of a street or highway right-of-way or other public place in such a manner as to constitute an obstruction to traffic or proper highway maintenance, or the construction of any public improvement, or threatens public safety, such officer is authorized to cause the motor vehicle to be moved forthwith to eliminate any such obstruction, and neither the officer nor anyone acting under his direction shall be liable for any damage to such motor vehicle occasioned by such removal. In addition, if a commercial vehicle poses a threat to public safety, the police have the authority to tow it. For a complete version of the City of Wheat Ridge's towing regulations, visit http://www.wheatridge.co.us. The towing regulations are primarily found in the municipal code under Section 13-43.
LARIMER COUNTY		Larimer County follows the State of Colorado's towing regulations.

	Fort Collins	The Fort Collins police may have the authority to impound a vehicle if it is carrying hazardous or radioactive materials on public streets.
		 Whenever any police officer finds a vehicle, attended or unattended, standing upon any portion of a street or highway right-of-way within this municipality that: does not have a valid license plate. is left unattended for a period of more than 24 hours, and driver had not left notice of intent to return. is left in inoperable condition. is left on private property for more than 24 hours without the consent of the owner. are abandoned on private property will be towed. For a complete version of the Fort Collins towing regulations, Visit www.ci.fort-collins.co.us. The towing regulations are found in the municipal code under 28-17 (27), Amendments to the adopted Vehicle and Traffic Code.
EL PASO COUNTY		In El Paso County, a vehicle may be impounded if the owner is driving without insurance.
		Otherwise, El Paso County does not have any towing ordinances in place. It is a general police policy to remove an abandoned or disabled vehicle that is blocking traffic or a snow plow after several attempts to contact the owner.
		For more information on El Paso County's towing regulations, visit <u>http://www.co.ep_paso.co.us/Clerkrcd/clerkboard/ctbord.asp.</u>
		Or, call 719-520-6460.

<u>Colorado Springs</u>	The Colorado Springs police have the authority to tow any vehicle that: A. is left unattended upon any bridge, viaduct, subway or tunnel, or where the vehicle constitutes an obstruction to traffic or pedestrians.
	B. is so disabled as to constitute an obstruction to traffic and the person in charge of the vehicle is incapacitated to an extent as to be unable to provide for its removal.
	C. is left on a public street with engine running, with key in the ignition, or when parked in a "tow-away" area.
	D. is left parked in the same place upon a street, highway or alley continuously for a period of seventy two (72) hours, or when any vehicle is left parked upon a street fronting on a business zone area continuously for a period of twenty four (24) hours or more.
	E. The driver of the vehicle is taken into custody by the Police Department.
	F. is found being driven upon a street, highway or alley of the City and the same is not equipped with all the necessary parts and equipment.
	G. The driver of a vehicle is reasonably suspected of using license plates or a license permit unlawfully or is driving without a current and valid driver's license.H. is found on or so near to any railroad track as to block the same in any manner.
	I. is a truck-trailer or semi-trailer and is found to be parked in any parking-metered space.
	K. the driver is reasonably believed to have been involved in an accident and to have left the scene without reporting the accident to proper authorities.
	 M. Any vehicle is reasonably suspected of being a stolen vehicle, or parts thereof to be stolen parts. O. A vehicle that is left on public property for more than 30 days will be deemed abandoned and can be towed. P. A driver who is notified of a violation of this chapter and has not responded within 72 hours will be subject to impoundment. For more information contact the Colorado Springs Website at http://66.113.195.234/CO/Colorado%20Springs/index.htm.
	The towing regulations are found in the City Code under Chapter 10, Motor Vehicles and Traffic.