

Impounding your vehicle

at the roadside

If you're caught committing certain driving offences, the vehicle you're driving can be impounded by the police.

What happens when a vehicle you're driving is impounded at the roadside

The police will give you an impoundment notice and call for a tow truck to take the vehicle away to a storage facility.

You'll have to pay the towing and storage fees before you can get the vehicle back.

28-day impoundment

Following a 28-day impoundment period, you have 10 days to claim the vehicle and pay the fees (or make arrangements to pay).

If the vehicle was impounded because you were racing or doing stunts, you must take the vehicle straight from the storage facility to a testing station to get a new warrant of fitness (WoF).

6-month impoundment

If you fail to stop (and remain stopped) when signalled by police, they may impound your vehicle for 6 months.

If your vehicle is impounded for 6 months, you have 38 days to either:

- pay the regulated fees for the full 6 months to the towage and storage provider, **or**
- make arrangements to pay.

Vehicle isn't claimed in time

If you haven't paid the fees (or made an arrangement to pay) after 38 days, the vehicle will be considered abandoned. At this point, the storage provider can request to become the registered person for the vehicle.

After the police give their approval, the storage provider can sell or dispose of the vehicle to recoup costs, subject to any terms or conditions from the police.

Appealing a roadside vehicle impoundment

The registered person for the vehicle is responsible for making sure only licensed drivers use their vehicle and drive it responsibly.

There are some circumstances where the registered person can appeal against a roadside vehicle impoundment. Check when you can appeal, at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/roadside-vehicle-impoundment

You have 14 days from the impound date to lodge an appeal with the police. To make an appeal:

- go to the police station nearest to where the vehicle was impounded and request a copy of the appeal documents
- make a written statutory declaration outlining the grounds for appealing and have it witnessed by an authorised person

- lodge your completed statutory declaration with the police.

Getting the vehicle back after the impoundment

Go to the storage provider and take:

- a form of identification (for example, a bank or credit card, driver licence or passport), **and**
- a document proving you're the registered person or the owner of the vehicle, **or**
- a mobile device you can use to show you're the registered person on our website.

Go to www.nzta.govt.nz/confirm-registered-person

When you've paid the towing and storage fees and shown your documentation, the storage provider will release the vehicle.

Towing and storage fees

The fees depend on the vehicle's weight, when it's towed and how far it's towed. Check the full list of fees at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/roadside-vehicle-impoundment

Towing fees (gross vehicle weight 3500kg or less)

Time and day	Towage fees (including GST)
Between 7am and 6pm, Monday to Friday (not including public holidays)	\$90.20
Any other time (for example, Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday)	\$120.30
If your vehicle is towed more than 10km, you'll pay an extra \$6.10 for each additional km or part of a km towed.	

Storage fees (gross vehicle weight 3500kg or less)

28-day impoundment total* (including GST)	Approximate 6-month impoundment total** (including GST)
\$607.50	\$4374
Each additional day is \$24.30 (including gst).	

*Under relevant legislation, there is no storage fee for the first 3 days.

**The total storage fee for a 6-month impoundment will vary depending on the number of days in the impoundment period.

Impounded vehicle under a finance arrangement

If it's a 6-month impoundment period, when a vehicle is under a finance arrangement and the contract is breached, a creditor may take ownership of and apply to repossess the vehicle.

Go to www.legislation.govt.nz to check your legal responsibilities

Search for:

- the Land Transport (Storage and Towage Fees for Impounded Vehicles) Regulations 1999
- the Land Transport Act 1998.



This factsheet is a general guide only. It doesn't replace legal advice, and your exact requirements will depend on current legislation.

Make sure you have the most up-to-date version of this factsheet by checking www.nzta.govt.nz/factsheets



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