

# DC DRIVER'S CHEAT SHEET

**Avoid the \$300+ Mistakes Most Visitors Make**

*From UnscriptedDC.co -- DC life without the tourist brochure*

## INSTANT TOW TRIGGERS -- AVOID THESE

- >> **Rush Hour Parking** 7:00-9:30am and 3:30-7:00pm weekdays. ZERO grace period. Tow trucks stage nearby before enforcement starts.
- >> **Temporary 'No Parking' Signs** Override EVERYTHING -- even a valid metered spot. Scan the full block before walking away.
- >> **2+ Unpaid Tickets** DC uses plate scanners. Boot crews find your car. Boot leads directly to towing if fees unpaid.
- >> **Blocking Hydrant or Driveway** Immediate tow. No exceptions.
- >> **Rush Hour Zones near the Mall** Must move before 4pm on weekdays or you WILL be towed.

## COMMON TICKET TRIGGERS

- >> **Street Cleaning** March 1 - Oct 31. Hours vary by block. \$45 fine. Doubles if unpaid after 30 days.
- >> **Meter Overtime** \$25 fine. Moving within the same RPP zone does NOT reset the 2-hour clock.
- >> **RPP Zones (Green Signs)** Non-residents: 2-hour max. Look for 'Except Zone X Permit Holders.' Applies even without a meter.
- >> **72-Hour Rule** Cannot leave car in same public spot more than 72 hours -- even if the spot is legal.
- >> **Broken Meter** NOT free parking. Pay via ParkMobile app or a nearby kiosk.

## PRO TIPS

- \* Set a 3:15pm alarm if parked on any major DC street on a weekday.
- \* Sundays and federal holidays: most meters are FREE. Still read the sign to confirm.
- \* Download ParkMobile before you arrive -- set it up before you need it.
- \* Read parking signs top to bottom. Most restrictive rule is always at the top.
- \* Free parking near the Mall: East Potomac Park / Hains Point lots. Arrive before 9am on weekends.

## CAR MISSING? DO THIS FIRST.

Call: (202) 541-6083 | Or dial 311 | Confirm lot before going anywhere

Pay tickets first at [dmv.dc.gov](http://dmv.dc.gov) | Blue Plains Lot: 5001 Shepherd Pkwy SW | Hours: M-F 8am-6pm

Bring: ID + registration | Card only -- NO cash | Typical cost: \$150-\$500+

Get the full DC Parking and Towing Survival Guide at [UnscriptedDC.co](http://UnscriptedDC.co)