

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · BROOKLINE

Brookline Car Registration and Overnight Parking Ban Guide 2026

The strictest local parking rule we met in this series: no street or Town lot parking between 2 and 6 a.m., every night of the year. Three legal ways out, the excise, fines and E-ZPass.

SHORT ANSWER

The single most useful rule on this page: in Brookline **no vehicle may stay on any street, or in any Town-owned lot, for more than one hour between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.** Every night of the year, every day of the week. It has nothing to do with snow. A newcomer who parks on the street gets a ticket on the first night. There are three legal ways out: a resident overnight space in a Town lot at about \$100 a month with a waiting list, a \$10 a night guest pass from the meters in the guest lots, and a resident daytime permit at about \$30 a year that does not cover the night. Transportation Division: 617-730-2177.

First the registration (state business)

- 1 Buy the insurance first.** You take a policy from a Massachusetts licensed agent, and the agent stamps and signs the Registration and Title Application (RMV-1). No stamp, no registration.
- 2 Have your Brookline street address entered as the garaging address, and never "Chestnut Hill".** That is the town's own warning; the box below explains why it matters.
- 3 Gather the documents.** No SSN and no U.S. license is required to register; the RMV list includes a foreign passport and a consular ID. Arriving from another state you need Form MVU-29, the stamped RMV-1 and the other state's title.
- 4 Go to a Service Center.** Registration and title transactions take walk-ins. Brookline has no office, so you use Watertown or Haymarket.
- 5 Inspection within 7 days.** Within seven days of registering you take the car for the Massachusetts Vehicle Check inspection (\$35) and repeat it every year.

A passenger plate is \$60 for two years and a title \$75; sales and use tax is 6.25 percent and the motor vehicle excise is \$25 per \$1,000 of value. Minimum insurance: \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury, \$30,000 property damage and \$8,000 PIP.

THE CHESTNUT HILL TRAP

The town's own warning is this: **Chestnut Hill is a post office name** that covers parts of Boston, Newton and Brookline together. If you show the car as garaged in Chestnut Hill, Brookline's motor vehicle excise bill may never reach you. When you do not pay a bill you never saw, the matter runs on to late interest and an RMV block; the town says that not receiving the bill does not relieve the owner of the liability and that it is the owner's job to go to the Assessors. The same risk applies to toll invoices. So have your **Brookline street address** entered as the garaging address with your insurance agent and in your RMV record. This is a concrete, easily avoided mistake.

The town sends the excise bill

- **Who bills it:** the motor vehicle excise is billed not by the RMV but by the town where the car is principally garaged. In Brookline that runs through the Treasurer/Collector.
- **Payment window:** 30 days from the date the bill is issued. If it goes unpaid, a \$5 demand fee applies and interest accrues at 12 percent a year from the day after the due date. An unpaid excise turns into an RMV block and clearing it costs \$20.
- **Address changes** go to the RMV, which passes them to the town.
- **Confirm it:** this information came from the town's page through a search summary, because brooklinema.gov blocks automated access. Verify the amounts and dates with the Treasurer/Collector.

The overnight parking ban: the town's strictest rule

The town's wording is that no driver may park on any street for more than one hour between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. on any day of the week. The same rule applies to town-owned lots, and exemptions can be granted only by the Transportation Board. This rule is not tied to winter or to a snow ban; it runs every night of the year. Snow tires, a visitor, illness or having just moved in are not automatic exemptions. **And it is not a rule on paper:** anyone can report an overnight violation (Public Safety Dispatch Center 617-730-2222 or OvernightParkingComplaint@brooklinema.gov).

ITEM	AMOUNT AND RULE
Overnight street parking violation	The old schedule said \$30. The police parking page announces a new fine schedule effective July 19, 2026 and the new amount was reported at about \$45; we could not read the schedule itself and one police page still says \$30, so confirm the current figure
Resident overnight permit (a space in a Town lot)	About \$100 a month, billed quarterly at about \$300. There is a waiting list
Guest overnight pass	\$10 a night, valid 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.; bought from the multi-space meters in the seven guest lots
Resident daytime permit	About \$30 a year per vehicle; it expires June 30 and is renewed by July 1. It does not cover the night
Snow emergency parking ban	When a ban is declared, parking is prohibited on every street including metered spaces; the old schedule set the fine at \$50 and cars are towed

Legal exit 1: the resident overnight permit

- **What it gives you:** a space in a town lot rather than on the street. The Coolidge Corner, Brookline Village and Washington Square lots are among those named for these permits.
- **Requirement:** the car has to be registered in Massachusetts at a Brookline address. Students may apply with an out-of-state registration if they show current proof of enrollment and residency.
- **The waiting list:** when no space is open you leave your Brookline address and phone number and they call when one frees up: 617-730-2177. Because billing is quarterly, the town says the spaces turn over noticeably every three months, so waiting is a real chance rather than a formality.
- **Applying:** online through the Accela portal, or on paper in person or by mail. In person they ask for the vehicle registration with a current Brookline address, a license and the prorated share of the monthly fee; cash, check or card is accepted.
- **Where:** Transportation Division (Department of Public Works), Brookline Town Hall, 333 Washington St., 4th Floor, Brookline MA 02445; 617-730-2177; Transportation@brooklinema.gov. The hours are given as Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with no transactions in the last half hour; call to confirm.

Legal exit 2: the guest overnight pass

- **How it works:** \$10 a night, valid between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. You buy the pass that day from a multi-space meter in a guest lot and put it on the dashboard; the machines take \$1, \$5 and \$10 bills and cards, and the pass expires the next morning.
- **The seven guest lots:** Babcock St. (at John St., 18 spaces), Kent St./Webster Pl. (behind 15 Harvard St., 26), Kent St./Station St. (29), Fuller St. (between Harvard St. and Centre St., 40), Beacon Median (1776-1800 Beacon St., 22), Centre St. East (behind the CVS at 294 Harvard St., 119) and Webster St. (13). Some have electric vehicle charging.
- **If the lot is more than a quarter mile away:** when the nearest guest lot is more than 1/4 mile from your home, your guest can get an overnight permit for your own street. You file the Temporary Parking Permit application online through Accela, by mail, in person at 333 Washington St. or by email to Transportation@brooklinema.gov; the fee is still \$10 a night.
- **Watch out:** an older police question-and-answer page gives the guest hours as 11 p.m. to 9 a.m. and the number of lots as five. That page looks out of date; we have printed the 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. and seven-lot figures from the town's own page, but confirm before you go.

Legal exit 3: the daytime permit (but not the night)

- **The daytime rule:** unless a sign says otherwise, you may not park more than two hours on the same street; Sundays and public holidays are excluded. Two town pages disagree on whether that limit ends at 1 a.m. or 2 a.m., so instead of an exact hour we give you the rule: two hours during the day and evening, and read the sign on your street.

- **The resident daytime permit:** about \$30 a year per vehicle, and it lets you exceed the two-hour limit on your own residential side street. It expires June 30 and you renew it by July 1.
- **What is asked for:** a valid license and a valid Massachusetts registration showing the car is garaged in Brookline. For a leased car they ask for a signed copy of the lease showing the lessor knows the car is garaged in Brookline. Payment is cash, check or card (American Express is not accepted).
- **The mistake people make most:** thinking the daytime permit solves the overnight ban. It does not. Even with a daytime permit, a car left on the street between 2 and 6 a.m. gets a ticket.
- **If the plate is not yet on Massachusetts:** there is a temporary permit route, and for it they ask for a signed copy of the lease and the current registration. Temporary permits of up to 30 days are listed for moving and construction, and daytime permits of up to 180 days for people providing child care or home health care in the home; the health care overnight permit and the child care daytime permit are free.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Keep the order straight: insurance with your Brookline street address as the garaging address and never Chestnut Hill, then registration, then inspection within 7 days, then the parking permit. But in Brookline the real decision comes earlier: where will the car spend the night? When you look at a home, ask the landlord whether a parking space comes with the address and get the answer into the lease; otherwise you have to join the waiting list for a town lot permit at about \$100 a month, and for that the car has to be registered in Massachusetts at your Brookline address. The fine amounts changed on July 19, 2026 and we could not read the new schedule, so the figures here are approximate. Because excise and toll invoices go to the address in your RMV record, do not skip the address update when you move; if you are subject to the address-reporting requirement, file the USCIS notice within 10 days too (Form AR-11). They are two separate filings.

Fines, snow and tolls

- **Where to pay a ticket:** Office of the Parking Clerk, Brookline Public Safety Building, 350 Washington St., 617-730-2230. Online around the clock, by mail (P.O. Box 470708, Brookline MA 02447-0708) or in person; partial payments are not accepted. **If you plan to appeal, do not pay**, because paying ends the right to appeal: appeals go online (4 to 6 weeks), by mail (2 weeks) or as a walk-in (Monday 5 to 6:30 p.m., Tuesday 9 to 11 a.m., Wednesday 5 to 6:30 p.m.).
- **The tow threshold:** Massachusetts-registered cars with 7 or more unpaid tickets older than 21 days can be towed (5 or more for an out-of-state registration). Unpaid tickets turn into an RMV block; it clears about one business day after payment and certified funds are required.
- **The police do not issue permits:** the Transportation Division does. For a one-off overnight permit you call 617-730-2230 after 3:30 p.m. and the police may grant up to two days as a courtesy.
- **Snow emergency:** when one is declared, parking is prohibited on every street, metered spaces included, even if you hold an overnight permit. Permit holders in the town lots may leave the car until 9 a.m. the morning after the ban lifts. Information line DPW 617-730-2610; sign up for AlertBrookline. We could not find the street sweeping calendar or the meter rates in an official source, so read the sign on your street.
- **Tolls:** there is no toll inside Brookline; you first meet one in the Boston tunnels, on the Tobin Bridge or on the Mass Pike (I-90). There are no toll booths and no cash. The [E-ZPass MA](#) transponder is free, with an opening payment of \$20 with automatic reload and \$30 with manual reload. Without an account the invoice is mailed to the address on your registration and carries a \$0.60 processing fee; pay within 30

days, after which \$1 is added per late crossing, and past 90 days a \$20 RMV fee appears. For a two-axle car the tunnels cost \$1.50 with a Massachusetts E-ZPass, \$1.75 with another state's and \$2.05 from the plate; the Tobin Bridge is \$1.25 and \$1.55 from the plate. Travel on the Green Line and you avoid all of it. EZDriveMA customer service is 877-627-7745, and the agency has published a warning about text messages claiming unpaid tolls.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN BROOKLINE

Have a question about your immigration status?

Attorney Asim Clinch serves clients in Brookline and the surrounding area, in Turkish and English.

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