

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · NEWTON

Newton Car Registration, Winter Overnight Parking Ban and Permit Guide 2026

The most expensive surprise for newcomers: no street parking between 2 and 6 a.m. from December 1 to March 31. Registration, excise, six permit neighborhoods and the free municipal lot sticker.

SHORT ANSWER

Registration is a state matter, parking is Newton's, and the rule that surprises newcomers most here is the **winter overnight ban**: from December 1 to March 31 no vehicle may park on any street for more than one hour between 2 and 6 a.m., the fine is \$25, and **being a resident is no exemption**. The free way out is a sticker that lets you leave the car in a designated municipal lot between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. Six neighborhoods also have resident permits: a sticker and a visitor placard are \$25 each, at most 2 and 2 per household. Police Traffic Bureau, 1321 Washington St., 617-796-2106.

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. **Have the agent enter Newton as the garaging code:** it sits in item 5 of your Coverage Selection Page and it also decides which city sends your excise bill.
- 2 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.
- 3 Go to a Service Center.** Registration and title transactions take walk-ins. Newton has no office, so you use Watertown or Haymarket.
- 4 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.
- 5 Update your RMV address.** The parking permit depends on the car being registered at your Newton address, and the excise and toll invoices go there too.

A passenger plate is \$60 for two years and a title \$75; sales and use tax is 6.25 percent. Minimum insurance: \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident for bodily injury, \$30,000 property damage and \$8,000 PIP. **The motor vehicle excise tax is billed by Newton's own Treasury:** City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, 1st Floor, weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The same office sends the property tax, personal property tax, boat excise and water bills; the rate is set by state law at \$25 per \$1,000 of value, and late payments accrue 14 percent interest a year. The bill goes to the address in your RMV record.

The winter overnight ban: Newton's most expensive surprise

- **The rule:** in the city's own words, between December 1 and March 31, except for vehicles in an emergency, no car may park for more than one hour between 2 and 6 a.m. on any public street or private way. **The fine is \$25.**
- **There is no resident exemption** and the ban applies every night of the winter, not only when it snows. That is why, when you look at a rental in Newton, "does the apartment have parking" matters as much as the price.
- **It was put to a vote and it stayed:** Newton voters rejected a proposal to end the ban on November 4, 2025 by 71 votes (10,894 against, 10,823 in favor).
- **It could change:** a city council working group set up on April 7, 2026, which reported on July 15, 2026, is discussing limited changes, and one member proposed a one-year pilot shortening the ban to January 1 through March 15; a straw poll in committee came out 2 to 2 with 2 abstentions and we found no binding vote. So as of October 1, 2026 the only rule in force is December 1 to March 31; check the city parking page again at the end of November.
- **The free way out is a municipal lot sticker.** For the duration of the ban, the city issues a free sticker that lets you leave your car in a designated municipal lot between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. You apply at the Traffic Bureau with a valid license and registration, places go first come first served, and the car has to be registered in Newton (university students excepted). In a snow emergency the sticker is suspended and cars must clear the lot. Two city pages give different date ranges for the sticker, so confirm at 617-796-2106.

THE ONE QUESTION TO ASK WHEN YOU LOOK AT A HOME

If you are renting in Newton, ask the landlord this and get the answer into the lease: **does this address come with a parking space?** If not, from December 1 to March 31 any car left on the street between 2 and 6 a.m. gets a \$25 ticket, and being a resident changes nothing. If you have found an apartment with no parking, call the Traffic Bureau before you move and get in line for the free municipal lot sticker (617-796-2106); places are limited. This is the easiest expense a newcomer household in Newton can avoid.

Neighborhood parking permits: six zones

Not all of Newton is permit parking; the permit zones sit in specific neighborhoods: **Auburndale Village, Newton Corner, Newton Highlands, Newtonville, Horace Mann and Waban Village.** The streets in each zone are listed one by one (the Newtonville zone, for example, covers about 40 streets south of the village center, and the Waban zone covers parts of Beacon St and of Collins, Dorset, Locke, Manitoba and Southwick roads), so check your own street on the city map before you park.

ITEM	2026 AMOUNT AND RULE
Resident parking sticker	\$25
Visitor placard	\$25
Household limit	At most 2 stickers and 2 visitor placards

ITEM	2026 AMOUNT AND RULE
Temporary permit	From 1 to at most 3 months for a contractor working at your home; not issued for "no parking" streets
Winter municipal lot sticker	Free, 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., limited places, the car must be registered in Newton
Where	Newton Police Department Traffic Bureau, 1321 Washington St. (West Newton), 617-796-2106

- **Only one requirement is in writing:** you bring a current vehicle registration showing the right address. So the order is clear: insurance, then the RMV registration and address update, then the permit.
- **No SSN:** the published document list mentions neither a Social Security number nor any immigration document.
- **What we could not verify:** the city page does not say whether a lease or an ID is required, nor the bureau's hours; call before you go.

Meters, municipal lots and tickets

- **Meters and kiosks:** charged Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The city page gives the rate as \$0.75 an hour for short-term parking and \$0.50 for long-term (12 hours), but that sentence comes from a 2020-21 upgrade text, so confirm at the kiosk. Payment is by coin, card or the Passport Parking app, and you do not have to display the receipt.
- **Thirteen municipal lots:** Auburndale (Lexington St); Newton Centre (Cypress, Langley, Pelham, Pleasant Street); Newton Corner (Pearl, Richardson); Newton Highlands (Hartford St); Newtonville (Austin St); Nonantum (Adams, Chapel); West Newton (Cherry, Waltham Street). **The Adams and Chapel Street lots in Nonantum are free** and time-limited; the rest are paid.
- **The Newton Centre employee permit pilot:** 33 metered spaces in the Cypress, Pleasant and Langley lots are set aside for employees, with permits issued through employers by the Traffic Bureau. The city tells rail commuters to use the Riverside or Woodland lots instead.
- **Commonly issued tickets:** blocking a curb cut, parking within 5 feet of a driveway, 10 feet of a hydrant or 20 feet of an intersection, stopping in a crosswalk or a bus stop, parking more than 12 inches from the curb or facing the wrong way, parking in a permit zone without one, breaking the winter ban and overstaying a time limit. Moving the car within a time-limited space is not enough: you have to pass the nearest intersection or leave the lot, and you cannot come back for two hours.
- **Paying and appealing:** online, by mail (City of Newton Parking, PO Box 590363, Newton MA 02459-0004) or at the Treasury counter in City Hall. Appeals go in within 21 days online (newton.citationportal.com) or through Customer Service (617-796-1000); the Parking Clerk decides within 10 days, a hearing by phone or Zoom can be requested, and the ticket is suspended for 15 days during review. The final appeal is Middlesex Superior Court and the city gives the filing fee as "currently \$275". Other than the \$25 winter fine, the amounts are not published on the city pages, so we print no figures.

Tolls: the Mass Pike runs through Newton

Newton has a feature of its own in this series: **the Mass Pike (I-90) crosses the northern half of the city and Newton has its own toll gantry**, so you pay every time you use the highway. There are no toll booths and no cash: either you open a free-transponder E-ZPass MA account (the discounted rate) or you are billed from your plate (Pay By Plate MA, no discount and a \$0.60 processing charge on every invoice). We could not verify the amount at the Newton gantry or whether any resident discount exists; look up your own route with the [EZDriveMA toll calculator](#).

CROSSING (2-AXLE CAR)	MASSACHUSETTS E-ZPASS	ANOTHER STATE'S E-ZPASS	PAY BY PLATE
Sumner, Callahan and Ted Williams tunnels	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$2.05
Tobin Bridge	\$1.25	\$1.25	\$1.55

- **Opening an account:** the [E-ZPass MA](#) transponder is free; the opening payment is \$20 with automatic reload and \$30 with manual reload.
- **If you do not pay:** you have 30 days. After that \$1 is added per late crossing, and past 90 days a \$20 RMV fee appears and your license and registration renewals can be blocked.
- **By train you pay nothing:** Newton's advantage is that the rail runs through the city. If you commute on the Green Line D or the commuter rail you avoid this cost entirely.
- **Scam warning:** EZDriveMA has published a warning about text messages claiming unpaid tolls. Customer service is 877-627-7745.

NOTE FOR IMMIGRANTS

Keep the order straight: insurance with Newton as the garaging code, then registration and the RMV address update, then inspection within 7 days, then a neighborhood permit if you need one. The place a newcomer loses the most money in Newton is the winter ban, because nobody reminds you and the ticket can be written again every night. Because the permit depends on the car being registered at your Newton address, do not delay the RMV address update; the same update makes sure the excise and toll invoices reach you. The USCIS address report is a separate task, due within 10 days (Form AR-11); one does not cover the other.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN NEWTON

Have a question about your immigration status?

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