

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · PLYMOUTH

Vehicles, Snow Parking Rules and Towing in Plymouth 2026

This city has two separate parking bans: one that starts at two inches of snow, and one that runs every night of the year. Confusing them gets the car towed.

SHORT ANSWER

Three separate headings, three separate places. **Registration is the state's:** there is no inspection and no emissions test, the metro emissions program was repealed in 1999 and the section shows as repealed on the revisor's site; the money goes instead into a **value-based registration tax**, and **studded tires are illegal**. **Parking enforcement is the City's:** it runs through Plymouth Police, the number for parking questions is **763-509-5160**, and **we could not confirm** which body a citation is paid to, so read it off the ticket. **The snow rule is the City's too**, and here it comes in two parts: **a snowfall of two inches or more is treated as a snow emergency** and you may not park on the street until it has been **plowed curb to curb**; on top of that, **on-street parking is prohibited every day, all year, from 2 to 5 a.m.** Snow or no snow, summer included.

Registration and insurance: state work, briefly

- **No inspection, no emissions test.** The state closed that program and the statutory text shows the section repealed. There is no annual inspection appointment, no inspection fee and no tailpipe test to budget for.
- **A value-based registration tax takes its place.** The higher the vehicle's value, the higher the annual registration, so this line is heavy on a new car. The formula and the counter fees are in [the vehicle section of the state guide](#).
- **Insurance costs more here and the reason is statutory.** Minnesota is a no-fault state; the mandatory package includes personal injury protection plus uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage. A quote from another state tells you nothing here, and a different price for the same car and driver is normal.
- **State law carries two protections for a newcomer:** if no score can be produced because you have no credit history, **the insurer must exclude credit as a factor**, and the scoring methodology **may not include gender, race, nationality or religion**.
- **And an item we are seeing for the first time in this series:** the mandatory coverage pays for **translation and sign-language services** tied to medical care; it is excluded if a family member provides the service. You should not be paying out of pocket for an interpreter at a doctor's visit after a crash, so confirm the line once when you take out the policy.
- **A warning about a mix-up:** state law has a rule about a single rating territory in a city of the first class, but it concerns **homeowner insurance, not auto**. If an auto quote is justified that way, ask for the source.
- **Studded tires are illegal, chains are allowed**, there is no winter tire mandate, and what people actually buy is a studless winter tire. The foreign-plate exception **does not apply** to a person working or studying

in Minnesota.

- **One question we cannot answer:** whether a Social Security number or an ITIN is needed to register a vehicle **could not be confirmed**. We found no counterpart in the vehicle chapter to the explicit provision in the licensing chapter. Call before the appointment and take your passport, your I-94 record and your work permit if you have one.
- **There are no toll roads**, but there are four express lanes and one of them concerns you directly; see below.

Snow: two inches, and curb to curb

The threshold is **two inches**. A snowfall reaching that triggers citywide plowing and the parking restriction, and the restriction ends when **your street has been plowed curb to curb**, not at a clock time. So do not reason that it is morning and must be fine now; the test is whether your street has been cleared. **There is a live trap here:** the two-inch threshold replaced an earlier **two-and-a-half-inch** standard and some of the City's older notices still carry the old figure. If you see two and a half inches online or in a neighborhood group, it is out of date; **taking the lower figure keeps you on the safe side**.

SITUATION	ON-STREET PARKING	WHEN IT ENDS
Ordinary day, 2 to 5 a.m.	Prohibited	Never, it runs all year
Ordinary day, daytime	Allowed	-
After a snowfall of two inches or more	Prohibited	Once the street is plowed curb to curb

The second ban has nothing to do with snow and runs **every single day**: no on-street parking between 2 and 5 a.m. For a newcomer this is usually the expensive surprise, because someone who reads the winter rules does not expect the same ban to be in force in July. Plan around it if you have guests, two cars and one driveway space, or a moving truck sitting on the street overnight. There is some flexibility: a resident with a special situation, for example a freshly repaved or seal-coated driveway, can **request permission to park on the street overnight**. That is an application, not a right; ask in advance, not on the night. Two further rules: **shoveling, plowing or blowing snow into the street is illegal** (City Code 1310.05), and the City offers **text alerts** for snow emergencies. Sign up for them, but know that not having received one is not an excuse.

DO NOT CARRY A NEIGHBORING SETTLEMENT'S RULE HERE: FOUR SEPARATE LOGICS IN ONE METRO

- **In the big city west of the river**, under a declared emergency, **you switch sides of the street according to whether your address number is odd or even**. Here there is no side switching at all.
- **In the capital east of the river** the emergency runs **in phases** and the rule turns on the sign posted on the street. Here it is **the clock and whether the street has been plowed** that decide.
- **In the neighboring suburb to the south there is no snow-emergency concept whatsoever**; the rules apply the same way at every snowfall and the night ban runs on different hours. Here there is a two-inch threshold and the night ban is 2 to 5 a.m.
- **In a city up north there is calendar-based alternate-side parking**, so a given address side on given nights through the winter.
- **The practical point in one sentence**: carrying a reflex from one settlement to another is real money lost here. If you move within the metro, the first-day task is to open the new city's snow page.
- **Source caveat**: the figures in this section come from the City's own snow page, but that page was not directly reachable and the content was read from the search index of the City's own pages. Open the City's snow page yourself once before winter; the threshold and the hours can be changed from there, not from here.

If your car is towed: what we know and what we do not

For a vehicle that breaks the snow rule the City's own language is blunt: **it can be ticketed and it can be towed**. The place to start, to find the car and get it back, is **Plymouth Police**, who run parking enforcement, on **763-509-5160**. But we have to be honest here: **we could not find an official list of the lot address, the fee schedule or who may take delivery for this city**. The neighboring cities also differ from each other, so you cannot carry an answer over from one of them: one may release a vehicle to a relative with the same last name, while at another lot **only the registered owner** may collect it. So ask three questions on the phone and write the answers down: who may collect the vehicle, which documents are required, and which payment methods are accepted.

- 1 **Find out whether the car was actually towed**. The number for parking enforcement questions is **763-509-5160**. Ask there first whether it was towed or relocated.
- 2 **Ask which lot it went to and who may collect it**. This guide prints no address and no tariff, because we could not find an official list.
- 3 **Assemble the documents in advance**. Items common to the neighboring settlements' practice: proof of ownership (title, bill of sale or the lease), **valid photo ID**, proof of insurance for that vehicle, and the keys. Whoever drives the car off the lot usually needs a **valid driver license**.
- 4 **Track the citation as a separate matter**. The tow charge and the parking ticket are two different items; paying one does not close the other, and **we could not confirm** which body the citation is paid to, so read it off the ticket.
- 5 **Two things to do today**: save the number in your phone, and find out whose name the car is registered in. If a household has one car used by several people, check now who holds the registration and whether that person has a valid license.

A VEHICLE LEFT BEHIND DURING AN IMMIGRATION DETENTION: WHAT WE CAN SAY HERE

- In this series we found a valuable line on the impound page of one of the metro's big cities: **vehicles abandoned due to ICE detention are released to the owner at no cost on evidence of the detention and proof of ownership.** That provision belongs to that city and **we do not carry it over here:** research **could not confirm** an equivalent in Plymouth.
- **That is not the same as saying there is none.** We do not say there is none; we say we could not find one, and those two are not the same thing.
- **What to do:** if a family member has been detained and their car is on the street, call parking enforcement, explain the situation, ask whether there is a fee waiver or a payment arrangement, ask for the answer **in writing** and note who you spoke to, the date and the time.
- **The clock is running.** Storage charges run **daily** everywhere in this series, so delaying that call is money.
- **Preparing in advance helps most:** a **notarized authorization** in the name of a relative or friend, that person's valid license, and a copy of the ownership document.
- **And do not confuse two files:** that provision is a **fee waiver**, with no effect on the detention itself or its outcome. The vehicle side and the immigration side run separately.

Living without a car: no light rail, but the city has its own bus

- **Light rail does not come to this city**, and that is the clearest difference from the metro's two big ones. In exchange the city has **its own municipal bus company, Plymouth Metrolink**, running since 1984 and the **first system** created under the state law that lets suburban cities run their own transit. It carries about **half a million** rides a year, so it is not a small side service.
- **It does two things.** **Express routes** run to downtown Minneapolis and to the University of Minnesota, with reverse-commute service as well. **Click-and-Ride** operates within the city and will take you to the park-and-ride lots too, so home to lot to express route is a workable chain.
- **Confirmed fares:** Click-and-Ride is **\$3 one way, seven days a week**; a ten-ride punch card is **\$30**, bought from the driver, at City Hall or in the app. The punch card is clearly better value than single fares.
- **You are not outside the regional system.** The regional authority is the seven-county **Metropolitan Council**, its operating division is **Metro Transit**, and Plymouth Metrolink is one of the region's six providers. The **Go-To Card** works on buses, on the **METRO Blue Line** and **METRO Green Line**, and on the bus rapid transit routes; you have to travel into the core to board light rail, but the card is one card.
- **The most valuable item in this section:** Metro Transit's **Transit Assistance Program** brings fares down to **\$1 a ride**, and the part that helps most is this: instead of income documents, **an organization enrolled in the program's Eligible Community Organization track can vouch for you.** For a newcomer without U.S. income documents, that is the open door. The discount expires **365 days** after first use. **Whether an ID or a number is required to get a card or to enroll could not be confirmed.**
- **Two moderate-confidence findings, as they stand:** that **Transit Link**, the Metropolitan Council's regional dial-a-ride service, covers every community in Hennepin County including Plymouth comes from a secondary summary; and that the suburb-to-suburb express **Route 494** is run jointly by Plymouth Metrolink, the **Minnesota Valley Transit Authority** and **SouthWest Transit** is also moderate confidence. If you commute suburb to suburb, ask about both.

- **Source caveat:** the Plymouth Metrolink transit and fare pages were not directly reachable and this was read from the search index of those pages. **Express route numbers, park-and-ride locations and whether Click-and-Ride runs during a snow emergency could not be confirmed.** Open the City's transit page before you use the service for the first time.
 - **If you drive, the express lane:** the **I-394** corridor into downtown Minneapolis has an express lane and the logic is this: **free with two or more people in the car**, while a solo driver pays a **dynamic price** that changes every few minutes, charged on weekday peaks only. Arranging a ride with a neighbor is directly money here.
 - **And we put the transportation department's own warning on this page**, because it targets newcomers directly: the agency warns on its own site about **toll scam text messages**. If one arrives claiming you owe an unpaid toll, do not tap the link; check your account only through the agency's own site. For part of the same corridor, the electronic toll option is also reported as unavailable in certain months due to construction, so confirm the current position before a long trip.
- 1 **Look at the age of the car you buy.** The tax is based on value, and a new vehicle is expensive here on an annual basis.
 - 2 **Call before you go to register** and ask about the identification number and the document list; this guide does not answer that question.
 - 3 **Compare quotes by the coverage list**, not the premium; personal injury protection is mandatory here and interpreter services are covered.
 - 4 **Buy studless winter tires.** Studs are illegal and the foreign-plate exception does not apply to someone working or studying here.
 - 5 **Tell your household about the 2 to 5 a.m. ban** and fix **two inches** in your mind as the threshold. Sign up for the City's snow text alert.
 - 6 **After a snowfall, measure the rule by whether your street has been plowed**, not by the clock.
 - 7 **If the car is towed, call 763-509-5160 first**, then ask the three questions: who may collect it, which documents, which payment.
 - 8 **When you view a rental, ask about a garage or a driveway space** and get the answer into the lease. Because the night ban runs all year, a plan that relies on the street does not work here.



TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN PLYMOUTH

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