Emergency parking ticket help

If you've got a ticket...

- **Check if it's a public or private ticket.** A *Penalty Charge Notice* or *Excess Charge Notice* from a council or Transport for London, or a police *Fixed Penalty Notice* is a public ticket & official – don't ignore. On private land (eg, a supermarket) tickets may look official and use similar initials. But they're NOT fines, just invoices & not always enforceable. Never pay a private ticket straight away, yet follow the same procedure, to be sure...
- **Immediately gather evidence if it's unfair.** If you've a camera phone take pics of unclear signs/markings (or their absence) and/or the area around your car. If there are witnesses, ask for a statement or contact details to support you.

If you've been clamped...

- **Ask for ID.** If you're told there's 'legal authority' to clamp your vehicle, ask to see ID. You can also call the authority they're working for to check it's valid. In N.I. clampers need a 16-digit Security Industry Authority licence no. Check it's legit on the SIA website. If in doubt, call the police.
- **Check time:** Councils usually wait 30 mins after a ticket before clamping.
- **If unfair, get evidence.** See 'got a ticket' evidence-gathering help above.
- **Act fast:** Ignore a clamp and your motor can be towed in hours, meaning hugely increased fees.
- **Pay under protest:** If forced to pay to release your vehicle, if you think it's unfair, write on the ticket that you've 'paid under protest'. This means you don't accept liability, so you can fight back.

If your car's missing...

If your car's gone, you won't have access to your glovebox, so read this in advance.
- **Towed or stolen?** In London, call the 24-hour Trace service (0845 206 8 602) to check. Elsewhere, the police. On private land, contact the car park owner.
- **If unfair, get evidence.** See 'got a ticket' evidence-gathering help above.
- **Can't afford release fee?** There's no official leeway, yet some staff may help.

THEN, ONCE YOU'RE HOME

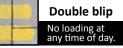| Public Parking Guide	Private Parking Guide
www.mse.me/publicparking	www.mse.me/privateparking

Can I park there?

When can I park on a...

- **Single yellow line:** Parking's usually banned during work hours, but check signs. If no specific signage, the best bet's to assume it's the same as pay & display or residents' restrictions. See 'loading' exceptions below.
- **Double yellow:** No parking at any time. See 'loading' exceptions below.
- **Red line:** Single line means no stopping at given times, double means NEVER.
- **Residents' bays:** Non-permit holders can only park outside sign posted hours. Everyone can be ticketed when a bay's suspended.
- **No road markings:** You can usually park in suburban areas but check signs.

When can I load or unload?

- On yellow lines you may stop if you are continuously loading heavy/bulky goods or to pick-up/drop off passengers, if not blocking traffic and not waiting. Yet watch for time restrictions, or kerb blips which mean you can't.

Single blip
You can load during sign-posted hours.

Double blip
No loading at any time of day.

- On a red line you cannot load during controlled hours.

Most common parking mistakes

- "I was going to get change for the meter" – this is not a permitted excuse.
- "It's displayed, there are just other tickets there" – tickets must be clear. 20 tickets on a dashboard is not clear.
- "It's only one wheel out of the bay" – that could still get you fined.
- "I can park on the pavement" – that's banned, unless specified.
- "Parking's free on bank holidays" – not always true, council rules vary.
- "If I pay straight after getting a ticket they'll let me off" – sadly not.
- "There was no yellow line, it's a bus stop" – don't block entrances, bays, traffic, dropped kerbs, bus stops and taxi ranks.

While every effort's been made to ensure accuracy this doesn't constitute legal advice. If you act on it, you acknowledge you do so at your own risk. We can't assume responsibility and don't accept liability for any damage or loss which may arise.