
About the Oregon State Board of Towing

- The Board was established to protect the safety and well-being of the public through the regulation of the towing industry.
- The Board holds the authority to investigate and take appropriate action — including sanctions and civil penalties — against individuals and companies found to be in violation of the towing laws assigned to the Board to administer.

To file a complaint:

Send an email to:

compliance@towboard.oregon.gov

Include:

- A brief description of what happened.
- The vehicle VIN and plate number.
- The name of the tow company.
- The City or County where the tow occurred.

An online complaint form link will be provided to complete the complaint.

Recipient
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

Oregon State Board of Towing
ICO DMV PROGRAM SERVICES
1905 Lana Ave., NE
Salem, OR 97304

Oregon State Board of Towing

**Law and Rule
Changes Effective
JANUARY 1, 2026**

Changes in Oregon's Towing Laws:

Effective 01/01/2026

- **The exemptions under ORS 98.853 (1)**, allowing a tower to impound a vehicle without a signed authorization **are removed**.
- Towers can no longer independently identify vehicles to be towed by "patrolling" parking facilities.
- **ORS 98.854 (2): A signed authorization, identifying the vehicle to be towed**, is to be signed by the property owner or designated agent **at the time of the tow** for every vehicle towed from a parking facility without the vehicle owner or vehicle operator's consent.

Authorizations:

- A property owner may authorize vehicles to be towed when parked in violation of parking restrictions.
- Every tow must be authorized. A tower *(or their representative)* **cannot independently identify or authorize a vehicle to be towed**.
- Parking lot patrols and parking enforcement **by the tower** are not allowed by Oregon laws.
- Law enforcement and government agencies may have vehicles towed without notice or consent of the vehicle owner.

A tower must release a vehicle to the owner or operator:

1. Without charge if the hook up of the vehicle is not complete. A tower cannot continue to hook up when the vehicle owner or operator arrives at the vehicle – except otherwise instructed or authorized by a law enforcement or government agency.
2. If hook up of the vehicle is complete and the vehicle may be safely towed, the tower may charge only the standard hook up fee of the tower. If the operator or owner of the vehicle cannot pay for release of the vehicle, the vehicle may be towed.

Tow Business Certificates

- Tow business certificates are issued **to the company and tow vehicle providing the towing services**; the certificate cannot be leased, borrowed, rented or sold.
- Tow business certificates demonstrate the legal operation of the tow vehicle and is to be provided upon request to confirm compliance with the law.

Tower Release of Information:

A tower is required to provide the following information **upon request**:

- The tower's written statement of rates and fees.
- Pre-tow photographs showing the vehicle parked prior to the tow.
- The signed authorization authorizing the tower to tow the vehicle without the vehicle owner's permission.
- An itemized statement showing the towing services provided and the charge for each item.

Notice of Lien:

A tower may not assess fees and storage charges unless the tower:

- Notifies law enforcement of where the tow vehicle is stored within one hour after completion of the tow.
- A Notice of Lien is issued within three business days of an involuntary tow.
- The Notice of Lien includes notice of the opportunity for hearing information as required by ORS Chapter 819 or local ordinances.
- The Notice of Lien and proof of certified mailing can be provided upon request of the vehicle owner, the party paying the tow bill, the Board, or other agency.

Violations of these laws put towers at risk of civil liability and Board disciplinary actions.