

Providing Accessible Parking

Provision of Designated Parking Spaces

Persons with disabilities that limit or impair their ability to walk require features not available in standard parking spaces. For example, access aisles adjacent to the vehicle parking space allow additional room for those using wheelchairs or other assistive equipment to exit and enter their vehicles. Accessible parking spaces must satisfy requirements established by Washington State law and the Americans with Disabilities Act. An accessible parking space:

- is located on the shortest accessible route of travel to an accessible facility entrance.
- has a firm, level or ramped access to the walkway.
- requires a sign posted at the head of the space displaying the International Symbol of Accessibility whose colors are white on a blue background and is mounted at a height of at least 5 feet on a post or vertical surface in full view of the driver.

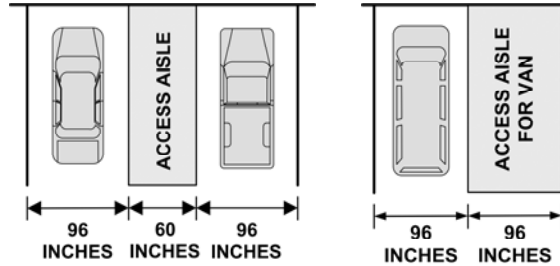
Number of Accessible Parking Spaces

The following table indicates the number of spaces required for new non-medical construction and may be used as a guide for existing parking lots.

Total Spaces in Lot	Minimum Number of Accessible Spaces
1 to 25	1
26 to 50	2
51 to 75	3
76 to 100	4
101 to 150	5
151 to 200	6
201 to 300	7
301 to 400	8
401 to 500	9
501 to 1000	2% of total spaces
1001 and over	20 spaces + 1 space for each additional 100 spaces, or fraction thereof over 1000

Note: One out of every eight accessible spaces shall be designated with a sign as "Van Accessible" and have an access aisle 8 feet (96 inches) wide minimum. If only one accessible space is required, it must be van accessible.

Dimensions for Parking Spaces



Non-Compliance

Failure of individuals owning or controlling property to erect and maintain signs where required accessible parking spaces are located is a civil infraction for each parking space that should be so designated. The person owning or controlling the property where the required spaces are located shall ensure that the parking spaces are not blocked or made inaccessible. Failure to do so is a civil infraction.

Contact for More Information

This brochure was produced by the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC) Northwest and the Washington State Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment.

DBTAC Northwest is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR). Alternate formats available upon request.



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Washington State



Alternate formats available upon request. See last page for contact information.

Obtaining a Disabled Parking Permit

Eligibility Standards

A person may receive a disabled parking privilege if they have a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk or involves acute sensitivity to light that is certified by a medical professional. The specific criteria are stated on the *Disabled Parking Application for Individuals* which can be obtained from a vehicle licensing office or:

Washington State Department of Licensing

Web: <http://www.dol.wa.gov/>

Phone: 360-902-3770 / TTY: 360-664-8885

Applying for a Parking Permit

The applicant and the certifying medical professional must complete and sign the application form. The applicant can submit the form by mail or deliver it to a vehicle licensing office. A receipt and disabled parking placards, plates, or tabs will be mailed as soon as the application is processed. The identification card should be received within 2–4 weeks.

The medical professional certifying either a temporary or permanent parking privilege must certify that the applicant meets at least one of the criteria set forth on the state's *Disabled Parking Application for Individuals form*. The certification requires the medical professional's signature and professional license number.

Providing false information on the application is a gross misdemeanor with a penalty of up to one year in jail, a fine of up to \$5000, or both.

Types of Disabled Parking Permit

Permanent Disability

Individuals may choose one of these options:

- A maximum of two blue placards which can be used by any vehicle when transporting the individual with the privilege. Renewal every 5 years.
- One set of disabled parking license plates issued to the qualified individual, who must be one of the registered owners of the vehicle. Yearly renewal is required.
- One set of disabled parking license plates and one placard. Plates must be renewed yearly.
- One special disabled parking year tab and one blue placard. The tab must be renewed yearly. Privileges must be renewed every five years.

Temporary Disability

- Individuals receive one red parking placard.
- Parking privilege is valid for up to 6 months from the date issued and is non-renewable.
- Individuals in need of privileges beyond 6 months must re-apply.

Organizational Vehicles

If your organization has vehicles that are used to transport any person with a disability, you may complete an application to receive parking privileges. The organization will receive either:

- Up to 99 placards, which hang from the rear-view mirror and can be used by any vehicle that provides regular transportation for an individual with a disability; or
- Disabled parking license plates issued to vehicles registered to the organization that regularly transport individuals with disabilities.

Using a Disabled Parking Privilege

Responsibilities

When exercising their parking privilege, individuals must carry and make their identification card available upon request by law or parking enforcement officials. Failure to comply may result in a citation.

Use of Windshield Placard

When parked in an accessible parking space:

- Hang the placard around the rearview mirror post. If there is no mirror or no post, place the placard on the dashboard.
- Make sure the placard is fully visible.
- Before moving vehicle, remove placard from mirror to eliminate potential blind spots.

Parking Violations

Contact your local police to report individuals who are abusing accessible parking privileges or parking in an accessible parking space illegally.



Where to Park and Free Parking

Persons possessing a disabled parking privilege may park free of charge for unlimited periods of time in regular on-street parking spaces, at parking meters, or in spaces designated for persons with mobility impairments. A local jurisdiction may impose and post time restrictions of no less than 4 hours on the use of standard parking meters or on-street parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities. Parking is not permitted in areas where stopping, parking, or standing of all vehicles is prohibited or reserved for special types of vehicles (fire lanes, loading zones, bus lanes). Off-street parking facilities that charge for parking may charge the same fee to vehicles with a disabled parking permit.

Penalties for Unauthorized Use

It is a traffic infraction with a penalty of \$250 for any unauthorized person to:

- Use the placard, identifying license plates or identification card.
- Obtain an identifying license plate, placard or identification card in any manner not established by law.

It is a parking infraction, with a penalty of \$250 for a person to:

- Exercise the parking privilege when the vehicle is not transporting the person to whom the privilege is issued.
- Exercise the parking privilege without an identifying license plate or placard.
- Block the access aisle or ramp located next to a space reserved for persons with disabilities.

The court may impose an additional penalty which is sufficient reimbursement to the local jurisdiction for any costs incurred in removal and storage of the improperly parked vehicle.

Refueling Service

An occupant of a vehicle displaying a disabled parking permit, having no companion who can perform the service, can receive refueling assistance at the same prices charged the general public from attendants at stations with both full- and self-service pumps and at self-service only stations with more than one attendant.