

PRIVATE PROPERTY TOW REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

The Police department cannot tow vehicles from private property except for certain circumstances. However, business property owners may tow vehicles only if a private tow-away zone is established. To do this, requirements must be met as set out in the Ohio Revised Code (4513.60):

1. The owner posts on his property a sign, that is at least 18 inches by 24 inches in size, that is visible from all entrances to the property, and that contains at least all of the following information:
 - a. A notice that the property is a private tow-away zone and those vehicles not authorized to park on the property will be towed away;
 - b. The telephone number of the person from whom a towed-away vehicle can be recovered, and the address of the place to which the vehicle will be taken and the place from which it may be recovered;
 - c. A statement that the vehicle may be recovered at any time during the day or night upon the submission of proof of ownership and the payment of a towing charge, in the amount not to exceed ninety dollars, and a storage charge in an amount not to exceed twelve dollars per twenty-four hour period, if the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating is in excess of ten thousand pounds and is a truck, bus, or a combination of a commercial tractor and trailer or semi-trailer;
2. It is the property owner's responsibility to report to the police department the license plate number, make model and color, the locations towed from, date, time and address and phone number of the tow company. Also, information pertaining to the location of the vehicle must be provided to the owner or operator who requests it.