



Abandoned Vehicles

Contact Us!

Idaho Transportation Department

Division of Motor Vehicles

Phone: 208-584-4343

Website: dmv.idaho.gov

Correspondence

Idaho Transportation Department

Attn: Titles

P.O. Box 7129

Boise, ID 83707-1129

What is an abandoned vehicle?

A vehicle is considered abandoned when it is left for 24 hours or longer within the limits of a highway, on property open to the public or on private or business property without the property owner's consent.

This definition excludes instances when an owner or operator cannot remove a vehicle and has notified a law enforcement agency and requested assistance.

Who should I contact if my vehicle was towed?

Contact local law enforcement as it may know if the vehicle has been towed.

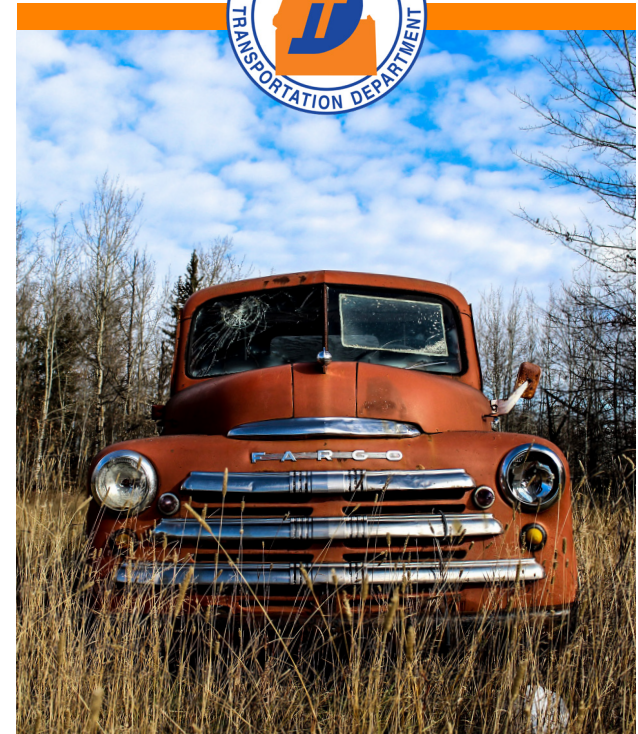
If the vehicle was towed because of an accident or an arrest, local law enforcement will provide you with the name and contact information for the towing company.

If your vehicle was towed from a posted property, contact the tow company listed on the sign that states "vehicles will be towed or booted at owner's expense."

Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), ITD does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, economic status or Limited English Proficiency.

Persons that require a reasonable accommodation based on language or disability should contact ITD Civil Rights Office at civilrights@itd.idaho.gov. Requests should be made as early as possible to ensure the state has an opportunity to address the accommodation.

019701010



dmv.idaho.gov



A guide to what is an abandoned vehicle
and how to have a vehicle towed from
your property.



208-584-4343

Who do I contact to have an abandoned vehicle removed from my property?

Who you contact depends on whether your property is properly posted. You have proper posting if you have a sign that:

- Is displayed in a clearly conspicuous location
- Has large print
- States that unauthorized vehicles will be removed or booted at the owner's expense, and
- Lists the name of the tow company.

If your property is posted as described, you may call the tow company listed on your sign and have it remove the vehicle.

If your property is not posted as described, contact your local law enforcement agency and report the vehicle as abandoned. If the vehicle is within a city limits, contact the city police. Otherwise, contact the local county Sheriff's office.

Law enforcement will send an officer to tag the vehicle and attempt to contact the vehicle owner by telephone. If the vehicle has not been removed within 48 hours, the law enforcement agency will instruct a tow company to remove the vehicle.

If you had a verbal or written agreement for the vehicle to be parked on your property and the owner has abandoned it and neglected to pay storage fees, contact the Idaho Transportation Department at 208-584-4343 for a lien sale procedures packet (Idaho Code 45-805).



Do I always have to wait 48 hours to have a vehicle removed if my property is not posted?

No. A law enforcement agency may immediately have a vehicle towed if it is blocking your driveway or is substantially interfering with the use of your property. Do not call a tow company yourself. If you do, you could be required to pay the towing and storage charges.

In what other circumstances can a vehicle be immediately towed?

Law enforcement agencies may have a vehicle towed where the vehicle:

- Is blocking impeding traffic or causing a hazard
- Has the potential of impeding an emergency vehicle
- Is impeding snow removal or other road maintenance activities
- Has been stolen but not yet reported as recovered
- Is not registered or displays an expired license plate sticker
- Has been involved in an accident and remains on the highway, or
- The driver has been arrested.



Can I sell or purchase a vehicle abandoned on my property?

To sell or purchase a vehicle abandoned on your property, you must contact the vehicle owner and agree to terms. You must title it in your name before selling it, unless you have car dealer's license.

For vehicles licensed and titled in Idaho, the vehicle's identification number is usually located on the driver's side dashboard. Give this number or the license plate number to your county Sheriff's DMV office and request a record. There is a fee for this transaction. If the vehicle is from another state, contact that state's DMV for owner information. Contact information for other state's DMV can be found at dmv.idaho.gov.

You cannot take possession the vehicle without obtaining the title from the owner and cannot sell it before titling it in your name.



For more information about abandoned vehicles such as how to obtain a title, go to dmv.idaho.gov and scroll down and select "Titling", and then scroll down to "Additional Information" where the "Abandoned Vehicles/Lien Sale Guide" will be listed.