Parking a Scooter or Moped in Chicago

Like motorcycles, scooters and mopeds are prohibited from parking on sidewalks or the parkway. They must abide by all of the parking and standing restrictions that apply to other vehicles.

Although the Illinois Vehicle Code at times treats the operation of some scooters like bicycles, those provisions do not apply to the parking of scooters and mopeds. Scooters and mopeds cannot be parked on the sidewalk. They cannot be parked on the parkway. They cannot be chained to bike racks.

Chicago’s parking and standing restrictions apply to scooters and other vehicles alike.

Operating a Scooter

Scooters may only be operated on streets where vehicular traffic is allowed. Only scooters that are properly registered may be used on the street. Operators must have a valid driver’s license and appropriate insurance.

Noise and Pollution

Motorcycles and scooters must be equipped with operating mufflers. They are prohibited from producing excessive or unusual noise and smoke. Further, operators are not allowed to use a muffler cut-out, straight pipe, or similar device without baffles or noise prohibiting features on the public way.

Road Conditions and Safety

Should you encounter dangerous road conditions, including pot holes or debris, please report them by calling 311. You may also use 311 to file compliments or complaints about taxicab drivers.

Contact Information

City of Chicago Department of Revenue
121 N. LaSalle St., Room 107A
Chicago, IL 60602
312.744.PARK (7275)
www.cityofchicago.org/revenue

City of Chicago, Office of the City Clerk
121 N. LaSalle St., Room 107
Chicago, IL 60602
312.744.1528
www.chicityclerk.com

State of Illinois
Secretary of State, Jesse White
213 State Capital
Springfield, IL 62706
1.(800).252.8980 Toll Free In IL
www.cyberdriveillinois.com

ABATE of Illinois
Chicago Chapter
Dedicated to Preserving the Rights of Motorcyclists
708.280.6053
www.chicagoabate.com

For information about Scooters in Chicago, please visit: www.cityofchicago.org/revenue
Parking Your Motorcycle or Scooter in the City of Chicago

This guide was created to help motorcycle and scooter owners understand parking and other regulations in the City of Chicago.

On April 11, 2007, the City of Chicago enacted a law concerning the parking of motorcycles and scooters on the public way. In addition to prescribing the manner in which motorcycles and scooters should be parked, the legislation clarifies the responsibilities of motorcycle and scooter owners when parking at pay and display parking meters.

Parking on the Public Way

Like cars and other vehicles, there are laws that require motorcycles and scooters to be parked in a certain way.

While cars and trucks are required to park parallel to the curb, motorcycles and scooters must be parked perpendicular, or at a 90 degree angle, to the curb.

Larger motorcycles, however, may park at an angle as close as possible to 90 degrees so that the motorcycle does not extend into the roadway.

Like the owners of cars and other vehicles, motorcycle and scooter owners are subject to a fine of $25 if they do not park as required.

Parking at a Meter or at a Pay and Display Machine

Motorcycles and scooters may park at parking meters and in pay and display spaces. When parking at a single space parking meter, the motorist must put the meter into operation as required by ordinance.

When parking in a space governed by a pay and display machine, the motorist must deposit the appropriate money. The machine will issue a receipt to the motorist. The receipt must be displayed on the motorcycle as follows:

- The license plate of the motorcycle or scooter must be written on the receipt. This deters others from stealing or using the receipt. Further, it is unlawful for any vehicle to display a receipt bearing another’s license plate number. Violators may be fined.
- Follow the directions on the receipt. The receipt has an adhesive backing. This backing should be removed and used to post the receipt to the headlamp of the motorcycle or scooter.
- Make sure to apply the adhesive and the receipt to a dry and clean surface. To ensure proper display and to avoid a ticket, please be certain to wipe the headlamp off prior to posting if it is dirty or wet.

Residential Parking Zones

Generally, residential parking zones limit parking to residents and their guests. Cars, trucks, and similar vehicles must display a residential parking permit or visitor permit. Motorcycles and scooters, however, may park in residential parking zones without displaying a permanent or visitor residential parking permit.

City Stickers

Residents of the City of Chicago, or people owning, renting, or controlling property in Chicago, must purchase and display a city sticker for any vehicle used on the public way. This requirement extends to the owners of motorcycles and scooters. Motorcycle, scooter, and moped owners must display a special license plate emblem. The annual fee for this emblem is $45.

City Sticker emblems can be obtained from the Office of the City Clerk or at any Department of Revenue facility. Please see the contact information on the reverse side of this brochure.

Special Parking Rates

There are a number of licensed parking garages in Chicago that offer special rates to motorcycles and scooters. A list of those garages may be found by visiting the City of Chicago website at www.cityofchicago.org/revenue.

Persons with Disabilities

Motorcycles that bear persons with disability license plates are not required by the Municipal Code to put a meter into operation or to display a pay and display receipt.