



Department: City of Seattle Department of Finance and Administrative Services	Rule No: Private Impounds- 01-2021	Supersedes: Clerk File 321237
	Publication: 3/23/2021	Effective: 4/15/2021
Subject: Maximum Private Impound Fees	Code and Section Reference(s): SMC 6.214.220 SMC 6.214.360 (rulemaking authority)	
Approved: <i>Beth Gappert</i> _____ Division Director <i>Sherri Crawford</i> _____ Business Unit Officer <i>Calvin W. Goings</i> _____ Calvin W. Goings, Department Director	 <u>April 7, 2021</u> Date <u>4/7/2021</u> Date <u>4/12/2021</u> Date	

City of Seattle Tow Company Rules

Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 6.214.220 requires the City of Seattle to adjust certain maximum private impound fees during the first quarter of each year.

1. The maximum towing service fee, storage fee and uncompleted tow fee shall be as specified in SMC 6.214.220 and shall be adjusted by the Director of the Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) or his or her designee (the Department Director) for inflation, by rule, during the first quarter of each calendar year as follows:
 - (a) **Towing service fee and uncompleted tow fee.** These fees shall be adjusted annually based upon the preceding year’s percentage change in the annual Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Transportation, or a successor index hereto, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
 - (b) **Storage fee.** This fee shall be adjusted annually based upon the preceding year’s percentage change in the annual Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Transportation, or a successor index hereto, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, provided that any such adjustment in the storage rate shall not result in a storage rate that exceeds the maximum daily storage rate allowed under Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 46.55.118(1)(b).
2. **After-hours release fee.** This fee may be adjusted by the Department Director upon written findings that reasons to do so exist. The Department Director shall consider the number and frequency of after-hours releases, the effect of the fee on consumers, the costs to tow companies and any other factors related to after-hours releases. In considering those factors, the Department Director has chosen to keep the fee at its existing rate.
3. The current maximum private impound fees are shown in the following table:

Fee Type	2020 Maximum Fee	Consumer Price Index, Seattle Area (February 2021)	2021 Maximum Fee
Towing service ¹ (first hour)	\$214.70	1.7%	\$218.35
Towing service (each subsequent hour per 15-minute period)	\$38.31 (\$153.22 per hour)	1.7%	\$38.96 (\$155.83 per hour)

¹ The towing service fee is a flat hourly rate that includes winching, dolly service, drive line removal, installation of chains on the tow truck, installation of portable lights, vehicle hookup for towing or transporting, tire replacement and standby times (SMC 6.214.220.A.2). This fee is the only basis for computing charges for private impound towing services other than uncompleted tow, storage and after-hours release fees (SMC 6.214.220.A.1).

Fee Type	2020 Maximum Fee	Consumer Price Index, Seattle Area (February 2021)	2021 Maximum Fee
Storage (per 12-hour period) (e.g., 1 min to 12 hours = maximum fee; 12 hours, 1 min to 24 hours = 2 x maximum fee)	\$31.98	1.7%	\$32.40 ²
Uncompleted tow fee (per 15-minute period; time computed from time of dispatch of tow vehicle to time of release)	\$53.68	1.7%	\$54.59
After-hours release (for a vehicle release outside of normal business hours)	\$100.00	Not applied	\$100.00

² Inflating the 2020 maximum fee for storage by 1.7% would exceed \$32.40 or 135% of the Washington State Patrol's current rate per 12 hours of storage. To comply with SMC 6.214.220.C, the 2021 maximum fee for storage will be \$32.40 per 12 hours of storage.