



10 Ways to Avoid Getting a Parking Ticket

There's no secret to avoiding a parking ticket

1. Watch for permanent and temporary signs.

As the demand for on-street parking continues to build, more areas of Ocala have posted parking restrictions. New loading zones and timed parking zones are added occasionally. In addition, "temporary" signing is posted for construction zones, cleaning, repairs, emergencies, tree trimming, water or sewer line work, and special events. Signs without specific times shown are in effect 24 hours a day.

2. Read the parking meters.

Hurried motorists often forget to check the information on the parking meters before depositing coins. Some of the important things they might miss include:

- The days and hours the meter is in effect
- Whether there are parking restrictions which require the vehicle to be moved
- Temporary signs indicating the time and date of any special events or construction which would prohibit the use of the parking spot
- A phone number to report any meter malfunctions: (352) 629-8201

3. Stay away from the corners of intersections

The space at the end of the block is an inviting temptation to the driver looking for parking. However, Florida Law and City Ordinance prohibit vehicles from parking within 20 feet of the inside edge of the intersecting sidewalk.

How far is 20 feet? It's roughly one parking space. A typical vehicle is 16' long. The "corner clearance" is intended to provide safety to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists with a clear field of vision when using intersections. This area also provides large trucks with the necessary turning clearance.

4. Leave bus stops for buses.

Drivers often pull into bus stops to wait for a friend, buy a cup of coffee or use a bank machine. Even a quick stop blocks the zone, forcing SunTran drivers to unload or load passengers on the street. This is a potential hazard for all passengers and adds congestion for other motorists when the bus is unable to pull into the bus stop.

5. Park safely at schools.

Many streets near schools have signs No Parking during school days or different traffic patterns. School day signing is designed to maximize visibility and to accommodate motorists dropping off or picking up children. Drivers should never double park to load or discharge children from their vehicles. This places kids in the dangerous position of crossing a lane of traffic without seeing or being seen by other motorists.

6. Use off-street parking.

The purpose of metered and time limit areas is to encourage the turnover of vehicles in places where there is a high demand for on-street parking. If your appointment requires longer term parking, save the cost of a ticket and use a lot or the parking garage. Staying at a meter longer than the posted time limit is a violation.

7. Know the difference between "No Parking" and "No Stopping".

The No Stopping Zone is the most restrictive parking regulation in Ocala. If a driver chooses to stop in one of these zones they can be ticketed immediately, and in some cases towed. Once a vehicle has ceased moving with the flow of traffic, even if occupied, it is deemed stopped.

The No Parking Zone is less restrictive. Drivers are allowed to use these zones (e.g. passenger loading) to load or unload goods or to pick up or discharge passengers for a period up to five minutes.

8. Respect residential parking restrictions.

In responding to neighborhood concerns about parking pressures, the city of Ocala has established a more restrictive use of the right-of-way as a parking area. These areas are able to be used for 12 hours during a 24 hour period. This is designed to allow for the clear movement of refuse collection and emergency vehicles.

9. Pay special attention to signing and parking meters in the Downtown District.

When parking on the street in the Downtown District of Ocala, pay special attention to the signs and parking meters. There are late night parking restrictions, there can be extended parking meter hours, and these areas are clearly signed. If in doubt, make use of the abundant off-street parking available in the area and pay close attention to those specific lot signs as well.

10. Know the Rules for parking in alleyways.

Alleyways must be maintained for the free flow of vehicles that need to pass through them. In some cases alleys do not pass through to another road however, they provide access to critical infrastructure or other equipment that must be serviced in that alley. The city's code requires that alleys may not be blocked

And always remember, **err on the side of caution!** Have I parked too close to the corner? What do those signs mean? Am I blocking another vehicle? If you're not sure, find another spot. Our parking enforcement specialist receive hundreds of complaints each year from people inconvenienced by another person's poor parking decision. Thanks for doing your part to maintain orderly parking for everyone!