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Late fees may be costing Boston drivers millions

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Some cars get hundreds of parking tickets in Boston at Copley Square.

By Matt Rocheleau and Todd Wallack

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What's the second most costly type of parking fine charged to Boston drivers?

Hint: It's got nothing to do with spaces — and a lot to do with time.

The answer is late fees.

More than \$7.7 million in late fees were tacked onto fines for violating city parking rules during the municipal fiscal year, which concluded at the end of June.

The fines accounted for 13 percent of the total value of parking penalties doled out during fiscal 2015, which was \$59.4 million.



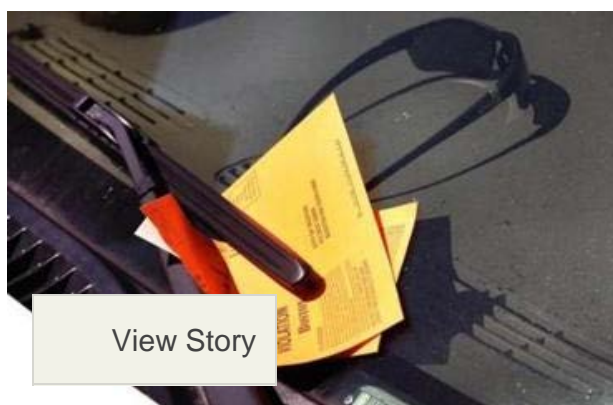
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Avoid Boston at these times

You are more likely to get a parking ticket in a handful of downtown blocks, especially around lunchtime from Tuesday through Friday.

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Assuming that people eventually pony up the money, the numbers mean that people are wasting

millions of dollars simply through procrastination.

The only category of parking infraction that cost drivers more were the \$8.7 million worth of tickets they received for failing to feed the meter.

Rounding out the top five most costly ticket categories were: violating resident parking rules (\$6.3 million); parking in a no-stopping-or-standing zone (\$6.2 million); and parking in a loading zone (\$5.5 million).

Boston parking enforcement officials encouraged drivers to either pay or appeal their tickets within 21 days to avoid late fees.

Late fees vary based on the type of ticket received. To see a detailed breakdown of late fee charges, [click here](#).

Below is a breakdown of the types of tickets issued last fiscal year and the total fines for each type.

Boston parking violation fines by type

A look at what types of infractions cost drivers the most during fiscal 2015. The chart is sorted by the total dollar amount issued in fines. (Note: Zone B features some of the city's more outer, residential neighborhoods and certain fines cost less in Zone B than in more central, urban areas of Boston.)

Ticket Type	Number of tickets issued	Fine per ticket	Total fines issued
Meter unpaid	349,555	\$25	\$8,738,875
Late fees	NA	NA	\$7,773,745
Resident parking	157,880	\$40	\$6,315,200
No stopping or standing zone	82,763	\$75	\$6,207,225
Loading zone	100,150	\$55	\$5,508,250
Street cleaning	130,951	\$40	\$5,238,040
Expired inspection	83,299	\$40	\$3,331,960
Expired plate	59,957	\$40	\$2,398,280
Over meter limit	56,753	\$25	\$1,418,825

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Double parking	30,769	\$45	\$1,384,605
No parking	24,664	\$55	\$1,356,520
Less than 10 feet from fire lane	12,140	\$100	\$1,214,000
Over posted time limit - Zone B	47,116	\$25	\$1,177,900
Handicapped / disabled veteran parking only	8,938	\$120	\$1,072,560
Hydrant	10,345	\$100	\$1,034,500
Snow/weather emergency	20,936	\$45	\$942,120
Over posted time limit	31,487	\$25	\$787,175
Handicapped ramp	7,403	\$100	\$740,300
Crosswalk	4,669	\$85	\$396,865
Sidewalk	5,883	\$65	\$382,395
No parking - Zone B	13,869	\$25	\$346,725
Within 20 feet of intersection	6,368	\$40	\$254,720
Resident parking - during Fenway Park event	2,128	\$100	\$212,800
Taxi stand	3,963	\$50	\$198,150
Bike lane	1,778	\$100	\$177,800
Bus stop/stand	1,723	\$100	\$172,300
Double parking - Zone B	5,499	\$30	\$164,970
Driveway	5,604	\$25	\$140,100
Over 1 foot from curb	3,413	\$35	\$119,455
Other	4,883	\$15	\$73,245
Island/center strip	1,124	\$40	\$44,960
Overnight of heavy (12,000-pound) vehicle in residential	409	\$100	\$40,900
Not in meter space	1,054	\$25	\$26,350
Commercial vehicle parked overnight	121	\$65	\$7,865
Pedestrian zone	19	\$100	\$1,900
No valid Resident Parking Permit	8	\$100	\$800
Total	1,277,621	-	\$59,402,380

SOURCE: City of Boston Transportation Department

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