



Wheelclamping and impounding foreign registered vehicles



Vehicle pound details

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Why your foreign registered vehicle has been clamped and/or removed

Your vehicle has been clamped and/or removed because it has either been in the UK for more than six months and has not been registered and taxed under UK rules, or you are a UK resident and you did not register and tax your vehicle when you brought it into the UK.

Foreign registered vehicles brought into the UK by non-UK residents are usually exempt from UK tax and registration for up to six months in any twelve-month period. This six month exemption is a requirement of EU legislation.

Once the exemption period has passed, or you become a UK resident, you must tax and register your foreign registered vehicle under UK rules immediately.

Current UK residents must register and tax foreign vehicles under UK rules as soon as they bring the vehicle into the UK.

What you should do if your vehicle has been clamped or removed

You should contact the vehicle pound. The pound address can be found on the front of this leaflet.

Paying the fees to release your vehicle

The fees you will need to pay are set out in the table below. You will also need to pay a surety fee (deposit). This will be refunded to you when you have correctly taxed and registered the vehicle.

	Release fees	Surety fee
Within 24 hours of offence (release from clamp or from pound)	• Release: £100 • Surety: see right	• £160 for motorcycles, light passenger and light goods vehicles • £330 for buses, recovery, haulage and goods vehicles
24 hours or more after offence (release from pound)	• Release: £200 • Surety: see right • Storage: £21 per day or part day at the pound	• £700 for exceptional loads and heavy goods vehicles such as a large lorry or bus

How you can pay

You can pay by cash, cheque, postal order or most credit cards or debit cards.

If your vehicle was removed by a local authority or police force, you should contact the vehicle pound to find out what payment methods they accept.

The documents you need to release your vehicle from the vehicle pound

Proof of ID

(you must produce one of the following)

- UK or EU/EEA passport
- UK driving licence
- Birth certificate

And

Proof of address

(you must produce one of the following)

- Utility bill
- Medical card
- Bank statement

And

A document to link you to the vehicle. This could be a document such as a non-UK registration document or an insurance certificate for the vehicle.

How to claim a refund of the surety fee

You must register and tax the vehicle and produce a UK vehicle registration certificate (also known as a 'log book' or V5C) to the vehicle pound within 56 days of the release of the vehicle. The vehicle recovery manager will check that the details on the registration certificate match the vehicle that was impounded and that vehicle tax has been paid.

After 56 days, you will lose the surety fee.

If the vehicle was clamped or removed in error

- You should contact the vehicle pound immediately.
- If you believe the vehicle is not in breach of the rules and entitled to an exemption from UK tax and registration, you will need to provide evidence to prove this.

How to import, register and tax your vehicle in the UK

The pound will give you an 'Import Pack'. This will give you all of the information that you need to successfully import your vehicle into the UK. You will then be able to register and tax your vehicle in line with UK rules.

If you do not intend to import, register and tax your vehicle after it has been released

You must still pay the release fees (including the surety fee) which you will not be able to claim back. You must not use or keep the vehicle on a public road and you must arrange to remove it from the UK or dispose of it. This action does not entitle you to a refund of the surety fee.

If you do not pay to have your vehicle released

If it's currently impounded, it could be disposed of after 14 days at the pound.

If you no longer want the vehicle, return a vehicle disclaimer form to tell the pound. You should be sent this form when the vehicle is impounded, or you can get one from the pound.

Will any further action be taken?

DVLA's enforcement centre may contact you to claim any unpaid tax from the date that the six-month exemption ended, or, if you are a UK resident, from the date the vehicle was brought into the UK. You may also have to pay a fine of up to £1,000 or 5 times the annual cost of vehicle tax, whichever is more.

You should not use or keep your vehicle on the road until it is properly registered and taxed in line with UK rules.

If your vehicle isn't registered and taxed or covered by valid vehicle tax or Statutory Off Road Notification (SORN) it could be immobilised and impounded again.

It is an offence to:

- make a false declaration which would allow a person to recover a vehicle
- make a false declaration to obtain a refund of the surety fee
- alter or use the vehicle release receipt fraudulently.

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