

Important Rules of the Road in Mexico; Impounding Car.

In most instances, it is much cheaper to take the ticket than to pay a bribe. A ticket received in Guadalajara or Lakeside can be paid in Chapala.

Most fines are only 48p. to 200p.

--50% off, if ticket paid within 5 days.

--Pay fine at Chapala Recudadora, 575 D Calle Juarez, Chalala.

Vehicle Fines. :

Police Will Be Tough with You Regarding:

- Not having required documents in the car.
- Going wrong way on one-way street.
- Illegal turns.
- Parking violations.
- Impeding emergency vehicles.
- Letting someone drive without a valid license drive.
- Parking on high speed roads (calzadas).
- Driving on bike path or place for pedestrians.
- Not stopping for an "implied" stop sign at intersections (You must stop whether there is a stop sign or not; inquire local laws. When in doubt, just stop at intersections and you will live longer in Mexico. Also, in some area street signs in color on buildings indicate a stop sign: red = stop; green = you have right of way)
- Minor driving your car.
- Running a red light or stop sign.
- Turning on red light where not allowed is some cities (ask locally).
- Speeding 10K or more in school, hospital, or urban zone.
- Speeding on city or local roads.
- Making a prohibited turn.
- Leaving the scene of an accident.
- Driving without insurance.
- Allowing an unauthorized person drive your car.

Note: Some officers are not clear on the law regarding who is allowed to drive your car. If your car has FOREIGN plates, ONLY persons listed on your Mexican insurance can drive your car. If your car has MEXICAN plates, with your car papers have handy a copy of Article 106 in Spanish and English to show officer that states who can drive your Mexican plated car: "...by a foreigner—the importer—holding one of the migratory status...by his or her spouse, parents or descendants, even when the latter are not foreigners: and by a Mexican as long as one of the persons authorized to drive the vehicle travels with him or her in the car." In 2004 the following clause was added that states that anyone with an FMT, FM3, or FM2 may drive your car: "...por un extranjero qu tenga alguna de las calidades migratorias a que se refiere este inciso".

Also, you do NOT need a Mexican license to drive a Mex. plated car. Under NO circumstances, don't loan your car to your Mexican friend, gardener, maid, etc. or risk having your car confiscated.

Also Not Allowed:

- Laminated color copy of your license. You can be charged with forgery.
- Cell phone use while driving.
- Having a pet or child in your lap while driving.
- Tossing litter from your car.
- No windshield wipers.
- No current registration or license.
- No seat belt.
- Car repair on highway.
- Riding a scooter without a helmet.

Car Impounded for:

- When someone is hurt in an accident.
- When you can't demonstrate legal possession of car.
- When your license plate doesn't match your registration.
- Blocking cochera (carport or garage) or parked in prohibited place or car abandoned on a public highway.
- Drunk driving (alcohol more than 0.6 grams per liter) or under influence of drugs.
- Not respecting red light or officer when he says don't pass or enter.
- Speeding over 20kph over the limit or in zones where there is no tolerance for speeding.
- Under NO circumstances, don't loan your car to your Mexican friend, gardener, maid, etc.
- Using your car for hire.
- Driving on a suspended or revoked license.
- On a major road driving the wrong way or crossing into oncoming traffic.