

TYPES OF TOWS AND FEES IN TEXAS

A breakdown, a collision, or a parking-lot removal. The type of tow decides which fee rules apply, so start by identifying the tow.

Consent

You arrange the tow. No statewide set rate.

Incident management

Crash-scene response. No statewide TDLR rate cap.

Private property

Parking facility removal. State maximums apply by weight class.

STEP ONE • CLASSIFY THE TOW

WHICH TYPE OF TOW ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

Start with Towing. Follow the split into Consent and Nonconsent, then select a tow type for its fee rules.

Towing

Every tow starts here

CONSENT

Consent towing

Owner-arranged service*

NONCONSENT

Nonconsent towing

Includes these two categories

NONCONSENT

Incident management

Crash or incident response

NONCONSENT

Private property

Parking facility removal

*Calling the truck yourself does not make an incident management tow a consent tow. Read the Chapter 2308 definitions [↗](#)

STEP TWO · WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE PRICE

DIFFERENT TOWS. DIFFERENT FEE RULES.

Compare the situation, pricing rules, and applicable limits. These examples concern towing charges; storage is separate.

CONSENT

Consent towing

You arrange a tow from your driveway to a repair shop.

HOW THE PRICE IS SET

No statewide set towing rate

Ask the towing company for its price and what that price includes.

LIMITS & QUALIFICATIONS

The consent category excludes incident management and private property towing.

Source & legal detail

The person arranging the tow may have possession, custody, or control of the vehicle. The statutory exclusion matters: calling the truck yourself does not convert an incident management tow into a consent tow.

[Chapter 2308 definitions ↗](#)

[TDLR pricing overview ↗](#)

NONCONSENT

Incident management

A tow truck responds to a collision or incident scene.

HOW THE PRICE IS SET

No statewide TDLR rate cap

Applicable city or county rate limits may still govern the charge.

LIMITS & QUALIFICATIONS

Statutory reasonableness requirements apply to removals covered by Transportation Code §§545.305 and 545.3051. The private property towing cap does not apply.

Source & legal detail

The incident management definition includes removal of vehicles, commercial cargo, and commercial debris from the scene.

For removals covered by Transportation Code §545.305(d), the vehicle owner is liable for reasonable towing and storage fees. Section 545.3051(d) requires the owner and any carrier to reimburse the specified public agency for reasonable removal and disposition costs. These provisions apply within their respective statutory scope.

[Transportation Code §§545.305–545.3051 ↗](#)

[TDLR: no state-set IM fees; local fees may apply ↗](#)

[§2308.002\(5-a\), \(6\) ↗](#)

NONCONSENT

Private property

A parking facility has an unauthorized vehicle removed without the owner's or operator's consent.

HOW THE PRICE IS SET

State maximum towing fees apply

An applicable local maximum may be lower.

LIMITS & QUALIFICATIONS

Statewide maximum towing charge by the vehicle's gross weight rating:

Light-duty 10,000 pounds or less	\$272
Medium-duty More than 10,000, less than 25,000 pounds	\$380
Heavy-duty More than 25,000 pounds	\$489 per unit, \$978 maximum

These are ceilings, assuming no lower local limit. Lawful storage charges are separate.

Source & legal detail

These are towing fees, not a total bill including lawful storage charges. Tiers are set by the vehicle's gross weight rating, not its actual loaded weight or the size of the tow truck.

The rule defines heavy-duty as a gross weight rating that "exceeds 25,000 pounds," while TDLR's consumer chart places 25,000 pounds or more in the heavy-duty tier. The dollar amounts are the same in both sources.

[16 TAC §86.455](#) ↗

[§2308.002\(8-b\); §§2308.0575, 2308.202](#) ↗

WHERE THE INFORMATION COMES FROM

Governing law, rule, and TDLR guidance

Start with the governing law and rule, then use TDLR's public explanation to make the material easier to understand.

1. [Texas Occupations Code, Chapter 2308](#)

Section 2308.002(3), (5-a), (6), (8-b): tow classifications. Sections 2308.0575 and 2308.202: private property fees and local limits.

2. [16 Texas Administrative Code §86.455](#)

Private property towing fee schedule: light-duty \$272, medium-duty \$380, heavy-duty \$489 per unit with a \$978 maximum, each set by gross weight rating.

3. [TDLR consumer information, Section III](#)

Corroborates all three towing maximums and the rule that lower local limits control. Other fee figures on that page are not adopted here.

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What is a private property tow?

A familiar example is a parking facility having an unauthorized vehicle removed without the vehicle owner's consent. That is one of the nonconsent categories shown above.

[TDLR: Towing at a Glance](#) ↗

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Towing and storage laws, rules, and local fee limits change. Southwest Tow Operators makes no warranty that the information here is current, complete, or applicable to any particular tow. Always confirm the governing statute, the applicable TDLR rule, and any city or county ordinance before acting.

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