

Parking

The Highway Code distinguishes several categories of parking that is punishable more or less severely in function with the locations and the characteristics in relation to the users of the public highway and its accessories or its annexes such as pavements, from a simple nuisance to a danger and also via abuse.

It also distinguishes “stopping” (momentary immobilisation of a vehicle in order to load up or off load where the driver remains in close proximity to their vehicle so as to be able to move it immediately) from “parking” (vehicle engine off where the driver doesn’t carry out any operations characteristic of the “stopping” category), but the penalties remain the same if they have the same characteristics.

WHAT IS FORBIDDEN?

It is forbidden to stop or park a vehicle on a passage way intended for the use of pedestrians, incurring a penalty of a fine of the first degree (1st class penalty) (Highway Code article R417-5).

1^{ère} classe



It is forbidden to stop or park a vehicle that impedes the public circulation

- **On pavements, sidings or pathways dedicated to pedestrians**
- **On green verges, cycle lanes and also on the edges of cycle lanes,**

Incurring a penalty of a fine in the second degree (2nd class penalty). In other cases where the driver or owner of the vehicle is absent or refuses to stop the nuisance parking, despite injunctions from enforcement officers, then the immobilisation and seizure of the vehicle may be ordered (Highway Code article R417-10).

Prohibition of acts of stopping or parking in a manner that causes a nuisance,

- A vehicle on clearways, passageways, lanes, pavements or sidings reserved for the circulation of public passenger transport vehicles, taxis or vehicles considered as having an interest of priority;
- A vehicle in dedicated disabled bays, reserved for vehicles displaying the standard issue disabled badge, a war induced handicap card, (GIG) or a civil duties invalidity pass (GIC).

Incurring penalties under the fourth degree (4th class). In other words if the driver or named person in the vehicle’s log-book is absent or refuses, despite the injunctions in place by the enforcement officers, to stop parking in such a manner, the immobilisation and seizure of the vehicle may be ordered (Highway Code article R417-11).



4^{ème} classe

Prohibition of stopping or parking in a manner presenting a danger to users

- When visibility is insufficient, the stopping or parking close to road junctions, on bends, the brow of a hill or at level crossings.

This situation may equally concern pedestrians as in the case of partially or wholly parking on the pavement and in doing so incurring a penalty under the fourth degree (4th class fine).



So, in the town centre we need to ensure we are parked the right way round - in the direction of the flow of traffic (parked on the right hand side) and that we park within the clearly identified and designated parking spaces.