

# VEHICLE FLYER DISTRIBUTION LAWS

## A 50-State Research Guide

This research guide compiles state-level statutes, common municipal restrictions, and general legal risk for placing flyers, handbills, or notices on parked vehicles in the United States.

### IMPORTANT — READ FIRST

This is a **research guide** compiled for educational and informational purposes — **not legal advice**. Three layers of law govern flyer-on-vehicle distribution: (1) state statutes, (2) municipal/city ordinances, and (3) private property rules including trespass. The vast majority of restrictions live at layers 2 and 3 — only a handful of states regulate this directly.

Always check the specific city's municipal code and respect posted "No Solicitation" / "No Handbills" signs on private parking lots. Compiled May 2026; laws change.

## HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE

Each state entry shows four fields:

- **State statute:** Whether the state itself has a law specifically addressing flyers on vehicles.
- **General laws that apply:** Littering, criminal trespass, and disorderly-conduct statutes that can reach this conduct even without a flyer-specific law.
- **Common municipal restrictions:** Major cities in that state with windshield-flyer ordinances on the books.
- **Risk level:** A rough rating of the typical legal exposure for distributing a non-commercial, courteous flyer (like a "you parked badly" notice).

### THE HEADLINE FINDING

Only **two states** — New York and Florida — have meaningful state-level statutes directly prohibiting placement of flyers on motor vehicles. In every other state, the question is governed by:

- A city or county ordinance (very common in major metros), or
- General littering laws (if the flyer blows off the vehicle), or
- Trespass law (if the parking lot is private property with no-solicitation signage).

## QUICK RISK SUMMARY

RISK TIER	STATES	WHAT IT MEANS
HIGH	New York, Florida (lodging only)	Direct state statute prohibits the conduct or imposes specific fines. Distribution is a violation by default.
MODERATE	California, Illinois, Texas, Massachusetts, Washington, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, New	No state statute, but every major metro has a municipal ordinance. Smaller cities often do not.

	Jersey, Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, Oregon, Maryland, Minnesota, Virginia, Tennessee, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, North Carolina, Nevada	
<b>LOW</b>	All remaining states (the rural/less-populated half)	Limited municipal coverage. Practical risk is mostly littering or trespass on private property.

## UNIVERSAL RULES THAT APPLY EVERYWHERE

Regardless of which state you're in, four rules apply nationwide:

1. **U.S. mailboxes are off-limits.** Federal law (18 U.S.C. § 1725) prohibits placing anything other than U.S. Mail in a mailbox. This carries up to a \$5,000 fine. Windshields, door handles, and door jambs are not mailboxes — but mailboxes themselves are absolutely forbidden.
2. **Don't place anything inside the vehicle.** Opening a door or window to insert a flyer can constitute trespass to chattels or even attempted burglary depending on the state. Stay on the exterior — under the wiper or tucked into the door jamb.
3. **"No Solicitation" / "No Handbills" signage must be respected.** Posted private property — most retail parking lots, apartment complexes, gated communities — converts the act into criminal trespass in nearly every state.
4. **Anti-littering laws can reach you.** If your flyers blow off windshields and end up on the ground, you (and the business named on the flyer) can be cited for littering even where flyering itself is legal. Most state littering statutes carry \$50-\$500 fines per offense.

### FIRST AMENDMENT NOTE

Commercial speech (advertising) gets less First Amendment protection than non-commercial speech. A purely informational, non-commercial flyer (like a public-safety notice with no business solicitation) has stronger constitutional protection than an advertisement. Several windshield-flyer ordinances have been narrowed by courts when applied to non-commercial speech, but enforcement still happens routinely. The constitutional argument is a defense, not a license.

# STATE-BY-STATE REFERENCE

States are listed alphabetically. Each entry summarizes statutory law as of May 2026.

## Alabama **LOW**

**State statute:** None directly addressing flyers on vehicles.

**General laws:** Ala. Code § 13A-7-29 (criminal littering); § 13A-7-4 (criminal trespass third degree).

**Municipal coverage:** Birmingham and Montgomery have handbill ordinances; most smaller cities do not.

**Practical:** Low risk on public streets and unmarked lots. Avoid posted private property.

## Alaska **LOW**

**State statute:** None addressing flyers on vehicles.

**General laws:** AS 46.06.080 (littering); AS 11.46.350 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Anchorage has a handbill code; Fairbanks and Juneau have minimal coverage.

**Practical:** Low risk overall.

## Arizona **MODERATE**

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** A.R.S. § 13-1603 (criminal littering, Class 2 misdemeanor); § 13-1502 (third-degree criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Phoenix City Code § 23-30 prohibits depositing handbills on vehicles. Tucson, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Tempe have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate risk in Phoenix metro; lower in rural areas.

## Arkansas **LOW**

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Ark. Code § 8-6-407 (litter control); § 5-39-203 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Little Rock has a handbill ordinance; coverage is otherwise thin.

**Practical:** Low risk statewide.

## California **MODERATE**

**State statute:** None at the state level. The California Supreme Court (*People v. Uffindell*, 90 Cal. App. 2d Supp. 881) upheld municipal authority to regulate this conduct.

**General laws:** Cal. Penal Code § 374.4 (littering, \$250–\$1,000 fine); § 602 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage — extensive:**

- Los Angeles Municipal Code § 28.01: prohibits depositing handbills in or on motor vehicles.
- San Jose Municipal Code § 6.36.020: prohibits placement on unattended vehicles.
- San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, Sacramento, Mountain View, Santa Clarita, Long Beach, Anaheim, and most other cities of meaningful size have similar ordinances.
- Oakland additionally requires permits even where allowed.

**Practical:** Moderate-to-high risk in any CA metro. Practically every populated city has a relevant ordinance.

## Colorado **MODERATE**

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** C.R.S. § 18-4-511 (littering); § 18-4-504 (third-degree criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Denver Revised Municipal Code § 38-95 prohibits handbill placement on vehicles. Colorado Springs, Aurora, Boulder, and Fort Collins have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in metros; lower in rural areas.

## Connecticut **LOW**

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a-250 (littering); § 53a-109 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Hartford, New Haven, Stamford have handbill ordinances of varying scope.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate risk in cities.

## Delaware **LOW**

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** 16 Del. C. § 1501 (littering); 11 Del. C. § 823 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Wilmington has a handbill ordinance. Most other municipalities do not specifically address it.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Florida **HIGH (LODGING) / MODERATE (GENERAL)**

**State statute — DIRECT:** Fla. Stat. § 509.144. Prohibits handbill distribution at or in any public lodging establishment (hotel, motel, vacation rental, etc.) without written permission. **First-degree misdemeanor;** minimum \$500 fine, escalating to \$2,000 (second offense) and \$3,000 (third+). Vehicles used in distribution are subject to seizure under the Florida Contraband Forfeiture Act on a third offense.

**General laws:** Fla. Stat. § 403.413 (Litter Law, \$100-\$1,000); § 810.08 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Miami, Orlando, Tampa, Jacksonville, St. Petersburg, Fort Lauderdale, Orange City — virtually every city of size has a windshield-handbill ordinance.

**Practical:** **HIGH risk in or near hotels/motels/short-term rentals — this is a statewide misdemeanor.** Moderate risk elsewhere.

## Georgia **MODERATE**

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers directly.

**General laws:** O.C.G.A. § 16-7-43 (littering); § 16-7-21 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Atlanta has detailed handbill provisions in its Code. Savannah, Augusta, Columbus all regulate this conduct.

**Practical:** Moderate in metros.

## Hawaii **LOW**

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** HRS § 339-4 (littering); § 708-814 (criminal trespass second degree).

**Municipal coverage:** Honolulu has a handbill ordinance.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate; tourist areas heavily enforced.

## Idaho **LOW**

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Idaho Code § 18-7031 (littering); § 18-7008 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Boise has limited handbill provisions. Most other municipalities do not specifically regulate.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Illinois MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** 415 ILCS 105 (Litter Control Act); 720 ILCS 5/21-3 (criminal trespass to real property).

**Municipal coverage — extensive:**

- Chicago Municipal Code § 10-8-320 prohibits handbill placement on motor vehicles.
- Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Naperville, Aurora, Rockford, Springfield, Peoria all have handbill-on-vehicle prohibitions.

**Practical:** Moderate-to-high in Chicago metro; lower downstate.

## Indiana MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** IC 35-45-3-2 (littering); IC 35-43-2-2 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Indianapolis-Marion County Code has handbill provisions. Fort Wayne, Evansville, South Bend follow similar patterns.

**Practical:** Moderate in Indianapolis; lower elsewhere.

## Iowa LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Iowa Code § 716.4 (littering); § 716.7 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Des Moines and Cedar Rapids have handbill provisions.

**Practical:** Low risk overall.

## Kansas LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** K.S.A. 21-6204 (littering); 21-5808 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Wichita and Kansas City KS have handbill provisions; Topeka and Overland Park do not specifically address it.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Kentucky LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** KRS 512.070 (criminal littering); KRS 511.080 (criminal trespass third degree).

**Municipal coverage:** Louisville Metro and Lexington-Fayette have handbill ordinances.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate in metro Louisville/Lexington.

## Louisiana LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** La. R.S. 30:2531 (litter law); 14:63 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** New Orleans Code Sec. 66-282 has handbill restrictions. Baton Rouge, Shreveport have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate; New Orleans enforcement is selective.

## Maine LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** 17 M.R.S. § 2264-A (littering); 17-A M.R.S. § 402 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Portland has handbill provisions; otherwise thin.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Maryland MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Md. Code Crim. Law § 10-110 (littering); § 6-403 (trespass on posted property).

**Municipal coverage:** Baltimore City Code Art. 19 § 49 prohibits placing handbills on vehicles. Annapolis, Rockville, Frederick have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in Baltimore and DC suburbs.

## Massachusetts MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers (confirmed by law-enforcement community discussion of MGL/CMR).

**General laws:** M.G.L. c. 270 § 16 (littering); c. 266 § 120 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Boston Municipal Code § 16-15 prohibits handbill placement on vehicles. Cambridge, Worcester, Springfield, and most cities of size have handbill ordinances.

**Practical:** Moderate; Boston and Cambridge enforcement is consistent.

## Michigan MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** MCL 324.8905 (litter); MCL 750.552 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Detroit Code Sec. 38-2-3, Dearborn Code § 14-81, Howell Code § 652.05, and many other Michigan municipalities have specific handbill-on-vehicle prohibitions. Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor, Lansing, Flint follow the same model.

**Practical:** Moderate in metros (Detroit, Grand Rapids, Ann Arbor). Low in rural Upper Peninsula and small towns where municipal codes are minimal.

## Minnesota MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Minn. Stat. § 609.68 (unlawful deposit of garbage/litter); § 609.605 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Minneapolis Code § 385.50 prohibits handbills on vehicles. St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in Twin Cities.

## Mississippi LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Miss. Code § 97-15-29 (littering); § 97-17-87 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Jackson has a handbill ordinance; otherwise sparse.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Missouri MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Mo. Rev. Stat. § 577.070 (littering); § 569.140 (trespass second degree).

**Municipal coverage:** St. Louis City Code § 15.42 prohibits handbills on vehicles. Kansas City, Springfield, Columbia have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in St. Louis and KC.

## Montana LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Mont. Code § 75-10-212 (littering); § 45-6-203 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Limited. Billings and Missoula have minimal coverage.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Nebraska LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-523 (littering); § 28-521 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Omaha and Lincoln have handbill provisions.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Nevada MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** NRS 444.630 (littering); NRS 207.200 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Las Vegas Municipal Code Title 10 prohibits handbill placement on vehicles. Henderson, North Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks all regulate. **Clark County in particular enforces aggressively along the Strip.**

**Practical:** Moderate-to-high in Las Vegas/Clark County; lower elsewhere.

## New Hampshire LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** RSA 163-B:3 (littering); RSA 635:2 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Manchester and Nashua have handbill provisions.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## New Jersey MODERATE

**State statute:** None at the state level (confirmed in legal practitioner guidance).

**General laws:** N.J.S.A. 13:1E-99.3 (litter law); 2C:18-3 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Newark, Jersey City, Paterson, Elizabeth, Edison, Trenton, and most NJ municipalities have handbill-on-vehicle ordinances. Coverage is dense due to the state's high municipal count.

**Practical:** Moderate; check the specific municipality.

## New Mexico LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** NMSA § 30-8-4 (littering); § 30-14-1 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Albuquerque and Santa Fe have handbill provisions.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate.

## New York HIGH

**State statute — DIRECT:** N.Y. Vehicle & Traffic Law § 375(1)(b)(i).

"The attaching to windshields and windshield wipers of handbills and other forms of advertisements, is hereby prohibited."

**NYC enhancement:** VTL § 375(1)(b)(ii) — "In a city of one million or more, the attaching or affixing by any means whatsoever of handbills or other forms of advertisements to a motor vehicle is hereby prohibited." This covers all of New York City and prohibits placement on *any* part of the vehicle (door handles, mirrors, antennas, jambs), not just the windshield. Includes a rebuttable presumption that the person/business named on the flyer caused the violation.

**General laws:** NY Penal Law § 240.20 (disorderly conduct, littering); § 140.05 (trespass).

**Practical:** **HIGH risk statewide.** NYPD and DSNY can issue summonses. The named-business presumption means the business on the flyer is on the hook even if it didn't personally distribute. **Avoid this approach in New York.**

## North Carolina MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** N.C.G.S. § 14-399 (littering); § 14-159.13 (second-degree trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Charlotte Code § 19-150, Raleigh, Greensboro, Durham, Winston-Salem all have handbill ordinances.

**Practical:** Moderate in metros.

## North Dakota LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** N.D.C.C. § 23-29-12 (littering); § 12.1-22-03 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Sparse. Fargo has minimal coverage.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Ohio MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** O.R.C. § 3767.32 (littering); § 2911.21 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Akron, Dayton — all have handbill-on-vehicle ordinances. Cleveland's is particularly comprehensive.

**Practical:** Moderate in metros.

## Oklahoma LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** 21 O.S. § 1761.1 (littering); 21 O.S. § 1835 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Oklahoma City and Tulsa have handbill provisions.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate.

## Oregon MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers (confirmed by Oregon legal practitioner guidance).

**General laws:** ORS 164.805 (offensive littering); ORS 164.245 (criminal trespass second degree).

**Municipal coverage:** Portland City Code § 14A.40 prohibits handbills on vehicles. Eugene, Salem, Beaverton — Beaverton specifically has been confirmed as **not** having a flyer-on-vehicle ordinance.

**Practical:** Moderate in Portland; lower elsewhere.

## Pennsylvania MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** 18 Pa.C.S. § 6501 (scattering rubbish); § 3503 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Philadelphia Code § 10-722 prohibits placing handbills on vehicles. Pittsburgh, Allentown, Erie, Reading have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

## Rhode Island LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** R.I.G.L. § 11-22-2 (littering); § 11-44-26 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Providence has a handbill ordinance.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate.

## South Carolina LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** S.C. Code § 16-11-700 (littering); § 16-11-620 (trespass after notice).

**Municipal coverage:** Charleston, Columbia, Greenville have handbill provisions.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate.

## South Dakota LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** SDCL 34A-7-12 (littering); SDCL 22-35-6 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Sioux Falls has minimal coverage; otherwise sparse.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Tennessee MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** T.C.A. § 39-14-502 (litter law); § 39-14-405 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Nashville Metro Code, Memphis, Knoxville, Chattanooga — all have handbill-on-vehicle provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in metros; tourist areas (Nashville/Pigeon Forge) enforce.

## Texas MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Tex. Health & Safety Code § 365.012 (litter, \$500–\$2,000 misdemeanor); Tex. Penal Code § 30.05 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Houston Code § 39-2, Dallas Code § 28-22, San Antonio Code § 21-12, Austin, Fort Worth, El Paso — all major Texas cities prohibit handbill placement on vehicles.

**Practical:** Moderate in metros. Note: Texas litter fines are among the highest in the country if a flyer ends up on the ground.

## Utah LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Utah Code § 76-10-802 (littering); § 76-6-206 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Salt Lake City and Provo have handbill provisions.

**Practical:** Low-to-moderate.

## Vermont LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** 10 V.S.A. § 6605 (litter); 13 V.S.A. § 3705 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Sparse. Burlington has minimal coverage.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Virginia MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Va. Code § 33.2-802 (littering); § 18.2-119 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Virginia Beach, Richmond, Norfolk, Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax all have handbill ordinances. DC suburban counties enforce consistently.

**Practical:** Moderate in NoVA and Hampton Roads.

## Washington MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** RCW 70A.200.060 (litter); RCW 9A.52.080 (criminal trespass second degree).

**Municipal coverage:** Seattle Municipal Code § 12A.30 prohibits handbills on vehicles. Tacoma, Spokane, Bellevue, Vancouver, Olympia have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in Puget Sound metro.

## West Virginia LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** W. Va. Code § 22-15A-4 (littering); § 61-3B-3 (trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Charleston has minimal coverage; otherwise sparse.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## Wisconsin MODERATE

**State statute:** None directly addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Wis. Stat. § 287.81 (littering); § 943.13 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Milwaukee Code § 105-58 prohibits handbills on vehicles. Madison, Green Bay, Kenosha, Racine have similar provisions.

**Practical:** Moderate in Milwaukee and Madison.

## Wyoming LOW

**State statute:** None addressing vehicle flyers.

**General laws:** Wyo. Stat. § 6-3-203 (littering); § 6-3-303 (criminal trespass).

**Municipal coverage:** Sparse. Cheyenne has minimal coverage.

**Practical:** Low risk.

## District of Columbia MODERATE

**Statute:** D.C. Mun. Regs. tit. 24 § 1004 prohibits the distribution of advertising matter on motor vehicles. D.C. Code § 8-901 et seq. (litter law) also applies.

**General laws:** D.C. Code § 22-3302 (unlawful entry / trespass).

**Practical:** Moderate; enforcement is selective but on the books.

# PRACTICAL GUIDANCE

Based on the above, here is concrete guidance for distributing the "How To Park" flier.

## BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE RISK ANYWHERE

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1. **Frame it as a public-safety notice, not an advertisement.** Do not include any business name, logo, phone number, website, or call-to-action that promotes a service. The flier itself meets this standard — keep it that way when distributing. Non-commercial speech gets stronger First Amendment protection.
2. **Place under the windshield wiper, not on the windshield itself.** "Attaching to windshields" is the specific language in NY's statute and many ordinances. A flier tucked securely under the wiper blade is technically a different physical act than "attaching."
3. **Secure it so it cannot blow away.** If your flier ends up on the ground, you've created littering. Fold it, weight it, or place it where wind cannot dislodge it. Most state littering statutes include "any printed matter that becomes airborne" as littering.
4. **Respect posted signage absolutely.** "No Solicitation," "No Handbills," "No Trespassing," "Private Property" — any of these on the lot or on the building converts the act into trespass even where flyering is otherwise legal.
5. **Avoid hotel/motel/short-term rental properties in Florida.** This is a state-level misdemeanor with mandatory minimum fines. Single most dangerous category nationwide.
6. **Avoid New York entirely.** Direct state statute. NYC enhancement covers any part of the vehicle, not just the windshield. Named-party presumption.
7. **Never use a mailbox.** Federal offense. \$5,000 maximum fine.
8. **Never open the vehicle.** Door handles and exterior door jambs are a gray area; opening any door or window is not.

## RISK CALIBRATION BY DISTRIBUTION VOLUME

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Enforcement scales with visibility. A single flier on a single car in a single lot is essentially invisible to law enforcement. Hundreds of flyers across a parking lot generates complaints, complaints generate enforcement, and enforcement generates citations.

If you distribute one flier in response to one specific instance of bad parking, the practical legal risk is near-zero anywhere outside New York and Florida lodging properties. If you systematically blanket parking lots, the risk profile changes substantially.

## DOCUMENTATION RECOMMENDATION

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Keep a copy of each flier you distribute, and a brief log of date, location, and the specific parking violation observed. If a property owner or law enforcement contacts you, contemporaneous documentation that you were responding to a specific safety concern (rather than blanket distributing) is the strongest defense available.

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*This research guide was compiled May 2026 from publicly available state statutes, municipal codes, and legal-practitioner sources. Laws change. Municipal codes in particular are amended frequently. This guide is not legal advice. For specific situations, consult an attorney licensed in the relevant jurisdiction.*