

Pay-By-Space Parking FAQs

DDOT is converting payment kiosks in the Penn Quarter and Chinatown neighborhoods from a Pay-And-Display configuration to a Pay-By-Space configuration. The new Pay-By-Space configuration will mean customers no longer have to return to their vehicle to display a receipt on their dashboard after they pay to park. Here are answers some common questions on this transition.

Where will I find Pay-By-Space parking?

Pay-By-Space parking is launching in the area of Penn Quarter and Chinatown, from E St. to H St., NW and 3rd St. to 11th St., NW. Pay-By-Space parking will roll out to other parts of the District at a later time.

How do I know that I am on a Pay-By-Space block?

Look for space numbers on space marker posts. A unique four- or five-digit number for a defined space indicates that the block has been converted to Pay-By-Space.

How do I park in the Pay-By-Space area?

Space marker posts define the parking spaces in this area. Park like you would at a traditional parking meter, so that the front or back of your car is lined up with one of the space marker posts.

How do I pay for parking in the Pay-By-Space area?

If you are using Parkmobile, after you enter your zone number you will be prompted to enter the space number. The rest of your transaction remains the same.

If you are paying at a payment kiosk, you will need to enter the space number to start a parking session. After you have paid, take your receipt and you can go on your way – no need to return to your vehicle.

What kind of payment methods can I use?

There is no change in available payment methods. You can pay by cell, or use coins or a card at the payment kiosk.

What's the difference between Pay-By-Space and the previous Pay-And-Display configuration?

There are two big differences:

First, in the Pay-By-Space configuration, space marker posts define the parking spaces. Park like you would at a traditional parking meter, so that the front or back of your car is lined up with one of the space marker posts.

Second, you need to make note of the space number in order to pay for parking. If you are using Parkmobile, after you enter your zone number you will be prompted to enter the space number. The rest of your transaction remains the same. If you are paying at a payment kiosk, you will need to enter the space number to start a parking session.

Third, if you pay at a payment kiosk, after you have paid you can go on your way. You no longer need to return to your vehicle to display a receipt on your dashboard like you would in Pay-And-Display.



Do I need to return to my car or display something after I have paid?

No. Simply enter your space number when paying at the kiosk and continue to your destination.

When I pay at the payment kiosk, which kiosk should I use?

To start a parking session, you must use the kiosk located on the blockface where you are parked.

Pay-By-Space parking offers a new perk for adding time! After you make your initial payment, if you need to add time (up to the time limit), you can do that at any payment kiosk in the Pay-By-Space area. Make sure to keep your receipt from your initial payment – it contains the information you will need to add time. At the kiosk, press 2 to add time, and then enter the information on your receipt when prompted (lot, space, and PIN).

Has the price of parking changed?

No. The price remains the same at this time.

Have the meter time limits changed?

No. The meter time limits remain the same.

Can I squeeze my car in anywhere it will fit?

No. Similar to parking at traditional parking meters, the new Pay-By-Space configuration requires customers to park in spaces defined by space marker posts.

Will transitioning to Pay-By-Space reduce the amount of available parking spaces?

No. DDOT has collected data from other cities and in the District to test whether defining individual spaces provides more or less parking. The data shows that defining individual spaces does not change the total number of cars that can park on a block.

Without a receipt on my dashboard, how will enforcement personnel know that I have paid?

Enforcement personnel will know which spaces are paid for along a block and will enforce based on that.

Are the payment kiosks ADA compliant?

Yes, they are ADA compliant.

When can I park on a Pay-By-Space block?

Parking regulations have not changed. You can park during the same hours and days as before.

Why is DDOT transitioning to Pay-By-Space parking?

Pay-By-Space parking will allow DDOT to keep track of parking space usage. In early 2016, drivers will be able to access parking availability information in order to make it easier to find a spot.

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