

Parking your car within Lisbon? Ask for a resident's card

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If finding a parking space in your neighbourhood is, or has become, a nightmare, then here is something that might be of help. It's only a little help, and does not mean you will find a space in front of your home, but should stop unpleasant surprises, such as a small yellow paper on your windscreen for a fine (of between 30 and 150 euros), or even worse, a much bigger but equally yellow wheel clamp.

The solution is called a resident's card, costs 12 euros per year and can be obtained from EMEL – the company that takes care of parking in Lisbon (the same one that gives you parking fines and uses wheel clamps!).

People who can ask for a resident's card are those whose main residence is set within a specific zone (Lisbon is divided into zones where you are only allowed to park within a certain distance of your home).

Be ready to be patient and bring a good book, because even early morning there are long queues.

To save time, print out and fill-in the form requesting a card from the following website (

<http://www.emel.pt/opencms/export/sites/emel/documentos/Formularios/Formularios-01-07-2009/REDR-2-07.pdf>

). This must be signed by the car's owner.

You must also have in your possession the following documents:

- driving licence
- electoral card or any other document that confirms your address (rental agreement)
- car's registration papers
- your 'contribuinte' card

Once you will have paid a mere 12 euros, you will be the proud owner of a small sticker to place on the car. You will also receive a paper that indicates the number of your zone (for example, Principe Real is 33. One tip: if you have parked your car and are not sure if it is located in your zone, find the nearest ticket vending machine and the zone number will be shown on it), as well as the boundaries of your zone.

So that's it: now all you need to do is get luck on your side and find the one space that is free!

One last comment and criticism: your card is valid one year, but then you will have to go through the whole process again in order to get a renewal! You cannot pay a renewal directly through the Multibanco system, nor will you receive a reminder. But who knows, maybe in a year's time things will have changed...

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Monday to Friday: from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday: from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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