Danny's License Plates

Some highlights from my license plate collection

Washington State License Plate Guide

Below is an at-a-glance summary of Washington passenger vehicle license plates by year, compiled from plates from my collection. This is meant as a useful tool for dating vintage photos. Please see my <u>Washington State License Plate History (https://dannyslicenseplates.com/washingtonhistory/)</u> page for background.

Many vintage photos show new vehicles with temporary county-issued paper or cardboard licenses. <u>For more information, please see this page. (https://dannyslicenseplates.com/temporary-licenses/)</u>

1905-1915

During this period, registration numbers were assigned by the state, but owners were responsible for providing their own plates (more information here (https://dannyslicenseplates.com/prestate-era/)). As a result, there is a wide variety of types and designs, and sometimes the number was simply painted on the vehicle. "WN" and the registration number were the only information displayed.



1916-1962

The state began producing and issuing license plates for the 1916 licensing year. Until 1921, licenses were valid for the state's fiscal year, not calendar year, with the date on the plate denoting the year of expiration (typically end of February). Thus, a plate dated 1917 was mostly on the road in 1916. From 1922 forward, license years aligned with calendar years.

N 7339	₩°32346	₩ ™78838 ¥	W ^N 3806
1916 valid June 10, 1915 to February 28, 1916	1917 valid March 1, 1916 to February 28, 1917	1918 valid March 1, 1917 to February 28, 1918	1919 valid March 1, 1918 to March 31, 1919
WN 4343 4343		WN 187036	w ≞ 119111
1920 valid March 1, 1919 to February 28, 1920. Three versions of plates were valid: 1) 1919 plate renewed with white porcelain tab; 2) full porcelain dated 1920 plate, with a color scheme to mimic the look of a renewed 1919 plate; 3) full metal dated 1920 plate, with the same color scheme			1921 (Type 1) valid March 1, 1920 to February 28, 1921
w [™] 124844	w [™] x22 126121	WN 50	w™ 4987
1921 (Type 2) valid March 1, 1921 to December 31, 1921	1922 valid full calendar year, as are all subsequent years	1923	1924
w™ x-25 75897	х 56-749 washington	×187-482	78-860 X WASHING TON-28

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1925	1926	1927	1928
106-549 X WASHINGTON-29	131-313 BU WASHINGTON X	123-458 X WASHINGTON 31.	123-449 X 32 WASHINGTON
1929	1930	1931	1932
X WASHINGTON 33 106-175	109-346 × WASHINGTON 34	A-79179 × WASHINGTON 35	0-5074
1933	1934	1935	1936
WASHINGTON 1937	A-38567	IBB9-GOLDEN JUBILEE-1939 A=59437 STATE OF WASHINGTON	C-19272 WASHINGTON 1940
1937	1938	1939	1940
F-16054	A-8820 WASHINGTON 1942	11634 WASHINGTON 1944	WASHINGTON 1945 A-8820
1941	1942 valid through 1944 (renewed via windshield sticker)	1944 issued only to new registrants	1945 valid through 1946 (renewed via windshield sticker)
A-205-018 WASHINGTON 1947	WASHINGTON 1949 A192.842	A229.454 WASHINGTON ISDI	SJ 1311 WASHINGTON 1511

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1947 valid through 1948 (renewed by windshield sticker)	1949	1950 valid through 1953 (renewed by metal tab in 1951 and 1953, and windshield sticker in 1952)	1951 valid through 1953 (renewed by windshield sticker in 1952 and metal tab in 1953)
6821B	4000 B	350.992A	AGE 297 WASHINGTON SB
1954 valid from 1954 through 1957 (renewed by metal tab in '55, '56, and '57). Three types: 1) steel – made in Walla Walla prison prior to Sept 1953 fire; 2) aluminum – made by Screw Machine Company in Portland, OR after the fire; 3) aluminum 6" x 12", made 1956 and later (but dated 1954) in new federally-standardized dimensions of 6" x 12"			1958 valid through 1962 (renewed by adhesive stickers)

1963-1997

All of the following bases were valid from the indicated dates until 2000:

ZZF 383 WASH. 63	GEA 228 WASHINGTON	WASHINGTON BEEM 139	WASHINGTON MUT THE XZL 797
1963	1965	1968	1977
WASHINGTON MINE KGA 805	WASHINGTON IN ISS HUN 410	WASHINGTON USE	Washington Br 774-ABL . Centennial Celebration
1980	1982	1985	1987



1998-present

WASHINGTON MISS 283-JOA EVERGREEN STATE	WASHINGTON 12 1000 AAAAOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO	
1998	2010	

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