

Redmond Police Department – ALPR Cameras FAQ

The Redmond Police Department uses Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras to support criminal investigations, locate stolen vehicles, and help find missing persons. This FAQ provides information about how the system operates, how data is managed, and the safeguards in place to protect privacy and ensure compliance with Washington State law.

What are ALPR cameras?

- **ALPR (Automated License Plate Reader) cameras capture license plate information to help police in investigations, locate and recover stolen vehicles, and locate missing persons.**

How many cameras are in Redmond and where are they located?

- **There are 24 cameras, 21 funded by grants and 3 donated by a local homeowner's association. They are placed along main routes into the city and in areas with higher levels of crime.**

How have ALPR cameras benefited the department since installation?

- **Since their installation in June 2025, ALPR cameras have assisted in police investigations, contributed to the recovery of missing persons, and the identification of vehicles connected to criminal activity. As the program continues, additional data will help measure long-term results and impacts.**

How long is ALPR data retained and where is it stored?

- **Data is stored on a 30-day retention schedule.**
- **The Redmond Police Department owns all ALPR data and controls who can access it. Sharing permissions can be revoked at any time.**

Can law enforcement agencies outside Washington access Redmond's ALPR data?

- **No. The Redmond Police Department does not enable nationwide data sharing. Any request from an outside agency for access to ALPR data must be reviewed and approved by the Police Chief.**

How does another law enforcement agency get access to Redmond's data?

- **Only agencies granted access by the Redmond Police Department may query ALPR data for legitimate investigative purposes.**
- **Once granted access, agencies must abide by State law and their own policies regarding the use of ALPR systems.**

Does the Redmond Police Department share data with federal immigration authorities?

- **No. Department policy, Washington State law, and the Keep Washington Working Act prohibit sharing civil immigration data with federal immigration authorities.**

Have any out-of-state or federal agencies queried Redmond's system?

- **To date, no out-of-state or federal agency has requested or received access to Redmond's ALPR data. Internal and external audits confirm that data has not been shared with any outside entity.**

What policies and laws govern the release of ALPR data?

- **RPD Policy 612 – Automated License Plate Readers**
- **RPD Policy 341 – Public Safety Technology Data Governance**
- **RCW 10.93.160 – Keep Washington Working Act**

How does the department ensure compliance with policy and state law?

- **All Redmond officers must provide a valid case number and documented investigative nexus for each search. These measures prevent unauthorized access and ensure all queries are lawful.**

How does the Redmond Police Department prevent ALPR data from being misused?

- **All external requests for ALPR data must be approved by the Police Chief. A dedicated staff member reviews each request for compliance with Washington State law.**
- **Redmond officers must also meet strict requirements before accessing data. Each search requires a valid case number and a documented investigative nexus.**

What company provides Redmond's ALPR cameras?

- **The Redmond Police Department currently partners with Flock Safety, the company that provides and maintains the city's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) system.**

Does the Redmond Police Department use Flock's "National Lookup" tool?

- **No. Nationwide data sharing is not enabled, and all requests for information are reviewed and approved by the department.**

What are the trade-offs of not using the "National Lookup" tool?

- **Sharing data nationally can help solve crimes and locate missing persons. For example, in August 2025, a Georgia sheriff deputy was alerted by a Flock camera about a vehicle linked to a missing child in Washington. The child was safely recovered, and the suspect was arrested.**

How does Flock's system protect against searches involving protected categories?

- **Flock has implemented a backend filter for Washington State customers. Searches referencing immigration, reproductive rights, or other protected categories are automatically blocked, in compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act.**

Do private businesses and HOA's share data with agencies outside Redmond?

- **HOAs and private businesses can share their camera data with whichever law enforcement agency they choose. They have access to their own data but do not have access to data from law enforcement networks.**