

California License Plate Data (1914 – 1962) – Appendix 1E

This chart has information on the license plates issued between 1914 and 1962. Refer to the *California License Plates and Proof of Current Registration* (REG 36) for information on license plates issued since 1963.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Background Color</i>	<i>Characters Color</i>	<i>Comments</i>	
1914	Brick Red	White	N/A	
1915	Yellow	Black		
1916 – 1919	White	Blue	During these years, California issued symbols affixed to the license plates as evidence of registration. In 1916, the symbol was the figure of a bear; in 1917, a poppy; in 1918, the Liberty Bell; and in 1919, a star.	
1920	Black	White	N/A	
1921	Yellow	Black		
1922	White	Blue		
1923	Black	White		
1924	Green	White		
1925	Yellow	Black		
1926	Blue	White		
1927	Maroon	White		
1928	Blue	Yellow		
1929	Black	Orange		
1930	Orange	Black		
1931	Black	Orange		
1932	Orange	Black		
1933	Black	Orange		
1934	Orange	Black		
1935	Black	Orange		
1936	Orange	Black		
1937	Black	Orange		
1938	Lemon Yellow	Black		
1939	Blue	Yellow		Contained “California World’s Fair”
1940	Orange	Black		N/A

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1941 – 1944	Black	Yellow	<p>A steel strip painted yellow with black numerals was also used in conjunction with the 1941 plates.</p> <p>A metal lithographed tab, white background with red letter “V” was used with 1941 and 1942 plates.</p> <p>A windshield sticker was used with 1941 and 1942 plates.</p>
1945	Black	White	One plate only.
1946	Black	White	Metal lithographed tab, chrome yellow background with black numerals “46” for use with the 1945 plate.
1947	Yellow	Black	N/A
1948	Yellow	Black	Aluminum tab, natural background with the red numerals “48” for use on upper right-hand corner of 1947 plates.
1949	Yellow	Black	Aluminum tab, natural background with black numerals “49” for use on upper right-hand corner of 1947 plates.
1950	Yellow	Black	Aluminum tab, natural background with red numerals “50” for use on upper right-hand corner of 1947 plates.
1951	Black	Yellow	N/A
1952	Black	Yellow	Steel tab, chrome yellow background with black numerals “52” for use on lower right-hand corner of 1951 plates.
1953	Black	Yellow	Steel tab, white background with black numerals “53” for use on lower right-hand corner of 1951 plates.
1954	Black	Yellow	Steel tab, one only, red background with white numerals “54” for use on lower right-hand corner of rear 1951 plate.
1955	Black	Yellow	Steel tab, one only, pearl grey background with black numerals “55” for use on lower right-hand corner of rear 1951 plate.

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<i>Year</i>	<i>Background Color</i>	<i>Characters Color</i>	<i>Comments</i>	
			<i>Sticker Background Color</i>	<i>Sticker Character Color</i>
1956	Chrome Yellow	Black	No sticker issued.	
1957			Red	Black
1958			Green	White
1959			White	Black
1960	Chrome Yellow	Black	Blue-Grey	Silver
1961			Red	Silver
1962			White	Green