

Who is responsible for the ownership of telecommunications towers



Overview

The companies that own and operate these towers, known as Tower Companies or TowerCos, are specialized entities distinct from the mobile carriers that use them. This business structure separates asset ownership from service provision, underpinning the rapid expansion of wireless. Over 65% of all cell towers in the United States are controlled by a handful of publicly traded companies, not the wireless carriers you expect. These owners are responsible for maintenance, upgrades, and compliance with regulations. We have revised our Antenna Tower Siting Procedures to ensure municipalities are involved early in the process. This Public Notice serves as a reminder that all parties to transfers of ownership of registered wireless communications towers must comply with the process set forth by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (Bureau) in a prior Public Notice. This reminder is necessary because of inconsistent.



Article Content

Mar 17, 2026

Facts about towers

The rules are designed to make sure companies are looking at ways to reduce the number of new towers they are building, while

Oct 19, 2025

Who Owns the Cell Towers in the USA? | Cell Tower Ownership - Sivo

The vast majority of cell towers in the USA are owned not by the mobile carriers (such as Verizon, AT& T, or T-Mobile)

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Filing Ownership Changes in the Antenna Structure Registration (ASR ...

Antenna Structure Registration - Help This article provides information on how to file an Ownership Change in the Antenna Structure

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Who Owns the Most Cell Towers: The Tower Company Business

The current structure of cell tower ownership resulted from a significant shift in the telecom industry. Mobile Network

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Tower and Antenna Siting

The FAA has asked owners of existing towers to submit plans for eliminating the use of non-flashing lights on existing

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public Notice serves as a reminder that all parties to transfers of ownership of registered wireless communications towers must

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Tower Rule Compliance: Whose Responsibility Is It?

While the tower owner is primarily responsible for compliance with the FCC's tower siting, maintenance and

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Who Controls Cell Towers? A Guide to Telecom Ownership

Learn who controls cell towers, from the major independent tower companies like American Tower to the carriers that

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Legal Perspectives on Ownership Rights in Telecom Infrastructure

Each type influences how infrastructure is managed, regulated, and developed within the telecommunications sector.

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Legal Perspectives on Ownership Rights in Telecom Infrastructure

Private ownership often involves corporations or individual entities holding clear rights over telecom towers, fiber

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The Hidden Truth: Why AT& T and T-Mobile Don't Own Their Own Towers

The Hidden Truth: Why AT& T and T-Mobile Don't Own Their Own Towers Discover why major carriers lease most of

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Navigating Legal Compliance in Cell Tower Leases: Tips for Property ...

Long-Term Compliance and Monitoring Ensuring legal compliance in cell tower leases is not a one-time task but an ongoing

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Understanding Cell Tower Lease Agreements: Key Terms and

Typically, telecommunications companies are responsible for maintaining their infrastructure, but property owners should ensure this

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How Europe's biggest telcos lost control of their towers

How Europe's biggest telcos lost control of their towers As private equity and specialist "towercos" have advanced,

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Who Owns the Most Cell Towers: The Tower Company Business

The telecommunications industry relies on physical infrastructure, and the cell tower is the foundation of modern

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Sharing of Telecoms Infrastructure – opportunities in 2016

Under this structure, mobile operators sell towers to an independent tower company. The towers are then leased back to the

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Preserving landlord and property owner rights during

The checklist below is a reminder to landlords and other property owners (including municipal governments

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Who Should Own the Towers? Rethinking Telecom's ...

Owning tower assets ensures operators retain full control over network expansion, rural connectivity initiatives and

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Wireless Landlords Checklist

The below checklist is a reminder to landlords and other property owners (including municipal governments and

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FCC's Legal Duties to Inform and Protect the Public

With FCC's control over the spectrum comes responsibility – a responsibility that includes the duty to inform and

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Who Owns Cell Phone Towers?

The Landscape of Cell Tower Ownership Cell phone towers are the backbone of our wireless communication

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Information for Land Owners and Communities

Approvals for the installation of free-standing towers are subject to local planning laws and are the responsibility of state, territory and

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Should Telcos Retain Ownership of Network Assets? An In ...

In the dynamic landscape of telecommunications, the debate over whether telecom operators should retain ownership

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Top 100 Cellular Towers Companies in the World as of

Globally, the top 100 cellular towers companies own and operate 1.7 million cell sites and we detail each

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Ownership of Towers by the Carriers

Ownership of Towers by the Carriers 9/23/15 Update: Number of Cell Towers Owner per Carrier It's been almost a decade since

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These specialized companies are responsible for the entire lifecycle of the tower, from site acquisition and zoning to

Contact Us

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