

City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works Policy on Placement, Maintenance, and Removal of Storage Containers in the Public Right-of-Way

Adopted 2011

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Background:

The use of temporary, free standing, storage containers are critical tools for activities associated with building renovations, remodeling, moving from one residence or business to another location, etc. Common examples of storage (debris or items of value) containers include dumpsters, moving containers, and flexible bag containers.

The City of Saint Paul understands the need for such storage containers, as well as the hazard that they pose for the traveling public and the eyesore that they are for adjacent properties and travelers. The City of Saint Paul must manage the use of the public right-of-way to ensure the most safe, temporary, attractive storage container situations possible. This policy provides requirements for the placement of storage containers within the City of Saint Paul Right-of-Way ("ROW").

Chapter 116 of the St. Paul Legislative Code ("Code") provides for the administration of City ROW and Chapter 135 of the Code provides for the issuing of permits and levying of fees with respect to conducting work within the ROW.

ROW Obstruction Permit Fees are in accordance with the ROW Permit Fee Schedule as approved by City Council. Contact the ROW Permit Service Desk at 651-266-6151 for further information about permitting and fees.

Policy:

This policy applies to public right-of-way operated and maintained by the City of Saint Paul Department of Public Works.

The storage container company (or the owner of the container) is the permittee, and they MUST:

- Secure a ROW Obstruction Permit from the ROW Permit Service Desk before placement of the storage container by calling 651-266-6151 or via e-mail at PW-ROWpermits@ci.stpaul.mn.us. This applies to any storage container that will be located in the ROW.
- Maintain storage containers in acceptable condition which includes remaining structurally sound, overall site cleanliness and safety, no leaking of materials from the storage containers, graffiti removed/covered, appropriate reflective sheeting as listed below, appropriate permit signage as listed below, and proper traffic control devices applied as determined by the City permit requirements for the site.
- Provide a secure and weatherproof permit holder on the adjacent traffic side of the

storage container. The permit must be enclosed in the weatherproof permit holder and must be visible and legible to be compliant.

- Maintain reflective sheeting on all corners of the storage container facing pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Each corner shall have a minimum of 4" wide and 4' high reflective sheeting placed on both sides of the corner centered in the middle of the full height of the storage container. Reflective sheeting must meet the requirements stated in Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Rule 393.11(b) and FMVSS No. 108 (S5.7.1).
- Place all storage containers so as not to damage the public ROW (i.e., curbs, street surface, boulevard area, trees, sidewalks, and lights). Damage to public ROW or infrastructure will be billed for restitution to the permittee. The permittee will provide restitution payment within 30 days of receiving the restitution bill.
- Place the storage container such that the property side edge of the storage container is as close to the public roadway curb as possible and does not impede or cause a hazard to moving or parked vehicular or pedestrian traffic. Storage containers located greater than 1 foot from the face of curb must be relocated closer to the curb in a timely manner upon notification. Storage Containers will not be allowed on streets which are too narrow to safely allow traffic or for maintenance vehicles such as snowplows to pass.
- Comply with Statutory "No Parking" regulations as well as all other "No Parking" signage/notifications that may exist.
- Remove snow which accumulates adjacent to the storage container within 24 hours. This includes either snow as a result of snow clearing operations as well as accumulations resulting from a series of smaller snow events. In the event of a snow emergency, make reasonable efforts for public safety by removing containers from the street during a declared snow emergency.
- Remove any debris accumulated adjacent to the storage container.
- Ensure that storage containers are not placed in the ROW where pedestrians are allowed (such as sidewalks or trails). If obstructing an identified pedestrian path, the storage container shall be removed immediately by the permittee if no temporary pedestrian access route (TPAR) is available and established by the permittee for use.
- Ensure that storage containers are not placed in medians or boulevards.
- Ensure that storage containers do not contact any City owned trees or other infrastructure such as light poles, signal poles, electrical cabinets, or utility poles. Storage containers cannot block or otherwise impede objects intended for public use, for example: bike corrals, benches, vehicle charging stations, bus stops, etc. Improperly placed storage containers shall be removed or relocated immediately by the permittee.

An initial expiration date of 120 days for any storage container permit will be established within the obstruction permit. The permittee is required to work with the ROW Permit Service Desk to update or extend as needed any active storage container obstruction permit. There is no grace period for any storage container obstruction permit upon expiration so permittees should contact the ROW Permit Service Desk in advance of the permit expiration date.

Any complaints or identification of unsafe conditions must be directed to the Public Works Department (PW-ROWpermits@ci.stpaul.mn.us and 651-266-6151) during normal business hours and to the Police Non-Emergency number (651-266-1111) after business hours.

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Web site: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/public-works/right-way>

Approved:



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