

Clean Curbs Program Information and Requirements

Through the Clean Curbs pilot program, private entities, such as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) can apply for the opportunity to have sealed, on-street containers for their trash and recycling storage, which will reduce their need to set out bags of recyclables and garbage for collection on City sidewalks. Containerization helps keep our city clean, reduces problems associated with pests and rodents, and allows for more efficient collections. This pilot program does not impact DOT's commercial refuse container program, which will continue to permit containers in the roadway for non-putrescible waste.

Eligibility

Any entity, such as a Business Improvement District, Non-Profit Organization, or LLC, may apply to the Clean Curbs program as long as that entity can comply with the requirements of the maintenance agreement. All Clean Curbs sites require support from the adjacent property owner(s), an approved application, and notification of the local Community Board(s) before installation can take place. The cost of purchasing, installing, maintaining, and removing the container(s) are solely the responsibility of the entity.

Siting

Once an application has been submitted, DSNY and DOT will review to ensure it meets siting criteria and, if eligible, will schedule a site visit.

All potential Clean Curbs sites are expected to be both safe and practical. Container site plans must adhere to the Furniture Siting Guidelines listed in the NYC DOT Street Design Manual, including specifications for minimum clearances between street furniture and other elements of the right-of-way and must ensure ADA accessibility. As part of the Clean Curbs program application, DSNY and DOT will review and approve proposed locations. DOT may require a container to move to a new location based on changes to the curb regulations. The cost of moving the container shall be borne by the entity.

As the Clean Curbs is a new and evolving program, standard operating procedures and best practices will be informed by experience and future analysis and will be revised accordingly from time to time. Please check back before submitting an application to ensure your application meets current guidelines.

On-Street:

- Containers shall not be stored or placed within:
 - o Any "No Stopping" or "No Standing" areas;
 - o 15 feet from hydrants;
- The container shall not in any way interfere with or obstruct access to bicycle facilities, bike share stations, car share spaces, taxi stands, hotel loading zones, subway facilities, utility access points, property access points (curb cuts), hydrants, fire alarms, traffic signals, street signs, bus stops or bus shelters, water main valves or gas shut-off valves, unless permission is obtained from the appropriate City Department or utility.

- The container shall not be placed in a crosswalk or in a curb cut, or in a manner that otherwise obstructs required sight distance lines.
- The container shall extend no more than 8 feet from the curb into the roadway. On some narrower streets, DOT may require a 6 foot container to ensure a through path of at least 15 feet in the roadway for emergency vehicle access
- The container shall allow a 6 inch clearance from the curb to allow for drainage

On-Sidewalk

- The container shall be offset from the curb by at least 18 inches, and must maintain a minimum of 8 feet of clear path of travel for pedestrians on the sidewalk or half of the sidewalk width, whichever is greater
- On dense pedestrian corridors DOT may require a 10 foot clear path of travel for pedestrians on the sidewalk in order to prevent pedestrian pinch points and overcrowding, to be determined by site observations and partner input
- Must comply with [DOT's Furniture Siting Guidelines](#)
- The container must also be spaced 15 feet from other street furniture or obstructions

Design

Applicants should consult the Zero Waste Design Guidelines for an understanding of trash containerization best practices. Applicants are also encouraged to incorporate street furniture elements to the container design and site, such as bike parking and seating. Freight considerations may also be proposed, such as space for package pick-up and drop-off.

Containers must meet the following requirements:

- The container must be of non-flammable construction, fully enclosed, and rodent-proof
- The container must be compatible with and not cause undue burden for commercial carter collection operations
- No advertising is allowed to be displayed on the container or within the project area
- The container must be compatible with commercial business recycling rules and regulations
- The container must have the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the container permanently affixed
- On-street containers shall have a length of no more than 20 feet, a height of no more than 5 feet, and a width of no more than 8 feet
- On-sidewalk containers shall have a length of no more than 10 ft, a height of no more than 5 feet, and a width of no more than 5 feet
- The street or sidewalk under which the container is placed shall be protected with proper covering (e.g., planking, skids, plating, or pneumatic tires) to prevent damage. Protection shall be placed in order to adequately distribute the weight. Placement of all protection shall be done upon delivery by the owner of the container.
- The container shall be marked with high intensity reflective paint, reflectors, or other markings capable of producing a warning glow when struck by the headlamps of a vehicle or other source of illumination at a distance of three hundred feet.

Operations and Maintenance

The entity responsible for the container must enter into a maintenance agreement with DSNY to keep the containers in proper working order and to ensure that the container and area surrounding the container, including any additional street scape elements, is kept clear of dirt, debris and rubbish as well as snow and ice. Entities must maintain commercial general liability insurance covering operations under this maintenance agreement.

FAQ

Q: Can I propose a container in a plaza or other public space?

A: Yes, proposals will be considered; however locations proposed in plazas must come from the DOT Plaza Program Partner. Proposers should site the container in place of current streetscape amenities, such as planters and granite blocks.

Q: Can I propose a container on the sidewalk?

A: Proposals for containers on the sidewalk will be accepted if accompanied by a pedestrian level of service analysis for the proposed location(s) and proposed locations comply with [DOT's Furniture Siting Guidelines](#). Proposals for containers in the curb lane portion of the roadway will have preference.

Q: Can I propose a container as part of the floating parking lane of a bike lane?

A: Yes, such proposals will be considered

Q: How will I know how many containers I need for the amount of waste my building generates?

A: You can use the [waste calculator](#) provided by the Center for Zero Waste Design.