



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW
YORK
Bill de Blasio, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Marisa Lago, Chair

24-33 - Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents

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LAST AMENDED
3/22/2016

In all #Residence Districts#, the following obstructions shall be permitted when located within a required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:

- (a) In any #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:
- (1) Arbors or trellises;
 - (2) Awnings and other sun control devices, provided that when located at a level higher than the first #story#, excluding a #basement#, all such awnings and other sun control devices:
 - (i) shall be limited to a maximum projection of 2 feet, 6 inches into such required #yard#; and
 - (ii) shall have solid surfaces that, in aggregate, cover an area no more than 30 percent of the area of the #building# wall (as viewed in elevation) from which they project;
 - (3) Canopies;
 - (4) Chimneys, projecting not more than three feet into, and not exceeding two percent of the area of, the required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#;
 - (5) Eaves, gutters or downspouts, projecting into such #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# not more than 16 inches or 20 percent of the width of such #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#, whichever is the lesser distance;
 - (6) Exterior wall thickness, where such wall thickness is added to the exterior face of a #building# wall existing on April 30, 2012, provided the added wall thickness has a thermal resistance (R-value) of at least 1.5 per inch, and is limited to one inch of thickness for every foot of existing #yard# width, up to a maximum thickness of eight inches. When an open area is provided along a common #lot line#, then such exterior wall thickness is limited to one inch for every foot of existing open area on the #zoning lot#;

Where #buildings# that have added exterior wall thickness pursuant to this Section are #enlarged#, such #enlarged# portion may similarly encroach upon required #yards# in order to align with the exterior walls of the existing #building#, provided such #enlargement# contains less #floor area# than the existing #building#, and there is no encroachment of #floor area# into a required #yard#;
 - (7) Fences;
 - (8) Flagpoles;
 - (9) Parking spaces for automobiles or bicycles, off-street, open, #accessory#;
 - (10) Solar energy systems, on walls existing on April 30, 2012, projecting no more than 10 inches and occupying no more than 20 percent of the surface area of the #building# wall (as viewed in elevation) from which it projects;
 - (11) Steps, and ramps for people with disabilities;
 - (12) Terraces or porches, open;
 - (13) Walls, not exceeding eight feet in height and not roofed or part of a #building#.
- (b) In any #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:
- (1) Balconies, unenclosed, subject to the provisions of Section 24-165;
 - (2) Breezeways;
 - (3) Any #building# or portion of a #building# used for #community facility uses#, including #accessory# parking spaces for bicycles within such #building#, provided that the height of such #building# shall not exceed one #story#, nor in any event 23 feet above #curb level#, and further provided that the area within such #building# dedicated to #accessory# parking spaces for bicycles shall not exceed the area permitted to be excluded from #floor area#, pursuant to Section 25-85 (Floor Area Exemption). In addition, decks, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs and weirs, pursuant to Section 24-51 (Permitted Obstructions), shall be

permitted above such an #accessory building#, or portion thereof. However, the following shall not be permitted obstructions:

- (i) in all #Residence Districts#, any portion of a #building# containing rooms used for living or sleeping purposes, other than a room in a hospital used for the care or treatment of patients;
 - (ii) in R1, R2, R3-1, R3A, R3X, R4-1 R4A or R4B Districts, any portion of a #building# used for any #community facility use#;
 - (iii) in all #Residence Districts# not listed in paragraph (b)(3)(ii) of this Section, beyond 100 feet of a #wide street#, any portion of a #building# used for a #community facility use# other than a #school#, house of worship, college or university, or hospital and related facilities;
- (4) Fire escapes;
 - (5) Greenhouses, #accessory#, non-commercial, limited to one #story# or 15 feet in height above natural grade level, whichever is less, and limited to an area not exceeding 25 percent of a required #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent# on a #zoning lot#;
 - (6) Parking spaces, off-street, #accessory# to a #community facility use#, provided that the height of an #accessory building#, or portion of a #building# used for such purposes, shall not exceed 15 feet above #curb level#. However, such #accessory building# or portion of a #building# shall not be a permitted obstruction in R1, R2, R3-1, R3A, R3X, R4-1, R4A or R4B Districts;
 - (7) Recreation or drying yard equipment;
 - (8) Sheds, tool rooms or other similar #accessory buildings or other structures# for domestic or agricultural storage, with a height not exceeding 10 feet above the level of the #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#;
 - (9) Solar energy systems on the roof of a #building# permitted as an obstruction to such #yard#, up to four feet in height as measured perpendicular to the roof surface when located above a permitted #community facility use# or attached parking structure; however, limited to 18 inches in height as measured perpendicular to the roof surface when located above a shed or detached parking structure, or on any roof with a slope greater than 20 degrees;
 - (10) Water-conserving devices required in connection with air conditioning or refrigeration systems in #buildings# existing prior to May 20, 1966, if located not less than eight feet from any #lot line#.

However, no portion of a #rear yard equivalent# which is also a required #front yard# or required #side yard# may contain any obstructions not permitted in such #front yard# or #side yard#.

Basic Regulations