



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

33-20 - YARD REGULATIONS

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33-20 - YARD REGULATIONS

LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

33-21 - Definitions

LAST AMENDED
11/19/1987

Words in italics are defined in Section 12-10 or, if applicable exclusively to this Section, in this Section.

33-22 - Level of Yards

LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

In all #Commercial Districts#, the level of a #yard# or of a #rear yard equivalent# shall not be higher than #curb level#. However, this Section shall not be construed to require that natural grade level be disturbed in order to comply with this requirement.

No #building or other structure# shall be erected above ground level in any required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# except as otherwise provided in Section 33-23 (Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents).

33-23 - Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents

LAST AMENDED
5/12/2021

In all #Commercial 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 from a #building# wall of 2 feet, 6 inches; 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) #Accessory# power systems, including, but not limited to, generators, solar energy systems, fuel cells, batteries and other energy storage systems, provided that all equipment shall not exceed a height of 23 feet above #curb level# ;
 - (11) 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;
 - (12) Steps, and ramps or lifts for people with physical disabilities;
 - (13) Terraces or porches, open;
 - (14) 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 24-166;
 - (2) Breezeways;
 - (3) Any #building# or portion of a #building# used for any permitted #use# other than #residences#, except that 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) shall not be a permitted obstruction, and provided that the height of such #building# shall not exceed one #story#, excluding #basement#, nor in any event 23 feet above #curb level#. In addition, decks, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs, and weirs, pursuant to Section 33-42 (Permitted Obstructions), shall be permitted above such a #building#, or portion thereof;
 - (4) Fire escapes;
 - (5) Parking spaces for automobiles or bicycles, off-street, #accessory#, provided that the height of an #accessory# #building# used for such purposes and located in a required #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent# shall not exceed 23 feet above #curb level#. In addition, decks, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs, and weirs, as set forth in Section 33-42, shall be permitted above such an #accessory# #building#, or portion thereof;
 - (6) Solar energy systems:
 - (i) 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 #commercial# or #community facility# #use# or attached parking structure;

- (ii) on the roof of a #building# permitted as an obstruction to such #yard#, shall be 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;
 - (iii) 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;
- (7) 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# that is also a required #front yard# or required #side yard# may contain any obstructions not permitted in such #front yard# or #side yard#.

33-24 - Measurement of Yard Width or Depth

LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

In all #Commercial Districts#, the width or depth of a #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# shall be measured perpendicular to #lot lines#.

33-25 - Minimum Required Side Yards

LAST AMENDED
4/30/2012

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, no #side yards# are required. However, if an open area extending along a #side lot line# is provided at any level, it shall be either:

- (a) at least eight feet wide at every point; or
- (b) at least five feet wide at every point, with an average width of eight feet, such average being the mean of the width of the open area at its narrowest point and its width at its widest point, provided that:
 - (1) such widest point shall be on a #street line#;
 - (2) no portion of a #building# shall project beyond a straight line connecting such two points; and
 - (3) in the case of a #zoning lot# bounded by a #side lot line# extending from #street# to #street#, such average shall be computed and such open area shall be provided as though each half of such #side lot line# bounded a separate #zoning lot#.

Permitted obstructions pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 33-23 (Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents), shall be permitted in such open areas.

33-26 - Minimum Required Rear Yards

LAST AMENDED
4/30/2008

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

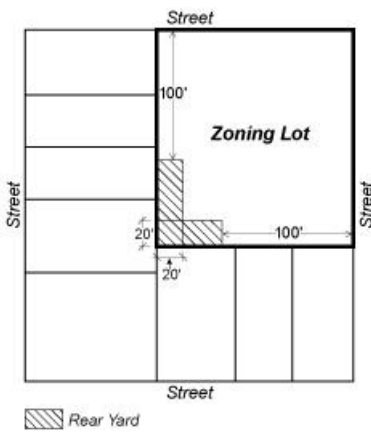
In all districts, as indicated, a #rear yard# with a depth of not less than 20 feet shall be provided at every #rear lot line# on any #zoning lot# except as otherwise provided in Sections 33-27 (Special Provisions for Shallow Interior Lots), 33-28 (Special Provisions for Through Lots) or 33-30 (OTHER SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR REAR YARDS). #Rear yards# shall also be provided along portions of #side lot lines# as set forth in Section 33-261 (Beyond one hundred feet of a street line).

33-261 - Beyond one hundred feet of a street line

LAST AMENDED
4/30/2008

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, for #corner lots#, and for #zoning lots# that are bounded by two or more #streets# that are neither #corner lots# or #through lots#, the portion of a #side lot line# beyond 100 feet of the #street line# that it intersects shall be considered a #rear lot line# and a #rear yard# with a minimum depth of 20 feet shall be provided where such #rear lot line# coincides with a #rear lot line# of an adjoining #zoning lot#.



CORNER LOT

(33-261.1, 43-261.1)



ZONING LOT BOUNDED BY TWO OR MORE STREETS (NEITHER A CORNER LOT NOR A THROUGH LOT)
(33-261.2, 43-261.1)

33-27 - Special Provisions for Shallow Interior Lots

LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, if an #interior lot# consists entirely of a tract of land:

- (a) which was owned separately and individually from all other adjoining tracts of land, both on December 15, 1961, and on the date of application for a building permit; and
- (b) which is less than 70 feet deep;

the depth of a required #rear yard# for such #interior lot# may be reduced by one foot for each two feet by which the maximum depth of such #interior lot# is less than 70 feet. No #rear yard# is required on any #interior lot# with a maximum depth of 50 feet or less.

33-28 - Special Provisions for Through Lots

LAST AMENDED
4/30/2008

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, the regulations of this Section shall apply to all #through lots#. In the case of a #zoning lot# occupying an entire #block#, no #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent# shall be required.

33-281 - Excepted districts

LAST AMENDED
4/30/2008

C4-2 C4-3 C4-4 C4-5 C4-6 C4-7 C5 C6 C8-4

In the districts indicated, no #rear yard# regulations shall apply to any #through lot#, except as otherwise provided in Section 33-303 (For zoning lots with multiple rear lot lines).

33-282 - Excepted through lots

LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

C1 C2 C3 C4-1 C7 C8-1 C8-2 C8-3

In the districts indicated, no #rear yard# regulations shall apply to any #through lots# which extend less than 110 feet in maximum depth from #street# to #street#.

33-283 - Required rear yard equivalents

LAST AMENDED

9/30/2009

C1 C2 C3 C4-1 C7 C8-1 C8-2 C8-3

In the districts indicated, on any #through lot# 110 feet or more in maximum depth from #street# to #street#, one of the following #rear yard equivalents# shall be provided:

- (a) an open area with a minimum depth of 40 feet midway (or within five feet of being midway) between the two #street lines# upon which such #through lot# fronts. In C1-6A, C1-7A, C1-8X, C1-9A, C2-6A, C2-7X, C2-8A and in C1 and C2 Districts mapped within R5D, R6A, R6B, R7A, R7B, R7D, R7X, R8A, R8B, R8X, R9A, R9D, R9X or R10 Districts, a #rear yard equivalent# shall be provided only as set forth in this paragraph; or
- (b) two open areas, each adjoining and extending along the full length of the #street line#, and each with a minimum depth of 20 feet measured from such #street line#; except that in C1 or C2 Districts the depth of such required open area along one #street line# may be decreased provided that a corresponding increase of the depth of the open area along the other #street line# is made; or
- (c) an open area adjoining and extending along the full length of each #side lot line#, with a minimum width of 20 feet measured from each such #side lot line#.

Any such #rear yard equivalent# shall be unobstructed from its lowest level to the sky, except as provided in Section 33-23 (Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents).

33-29 - Special Provisions Applying along District Boundaries

LAST AMENDED

2/8/1962

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, open areas shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this Section along the boundaries of #Residence Districts# except where such district boundaries are also the boundaries of railroad rights-of-way or cemeteries.

33-291 - Required yards along district boundary coincident with side lot line of zoning lot in an R1, R2, R3, R4 or R5 District

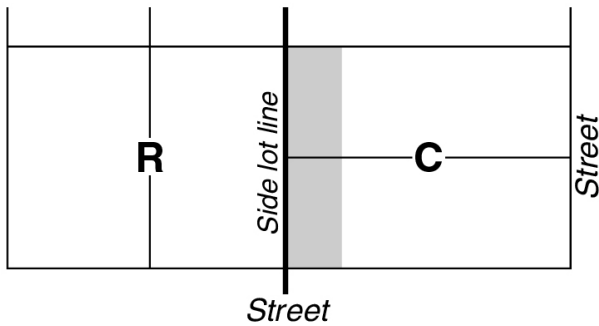
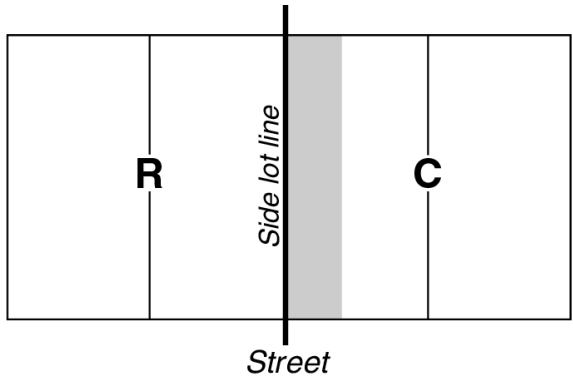
LAST AMENDED



12/15/1961

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, along such portion of the boundary of a #Commercial District# that coincides with a #side lot line# of a #zoning lot# in an R1, R2, R3, R4 or R5 District an open area not higher than #curb level# shall be provided within the #Commercial District# with at least the width or depth set forth in the following table. Such an open area shall not be used for #accessory# off-street loading, or for storage or processing of any kind.

Districts	Required Width or Depth of #Yard# (in feet)
C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7	8
C8	15



 Required Open Area
 8' or 15' width or depth
 District Boundary

REQUIRED YARD ALONG DISTRICT BOUNDARY COINCIDENT WITH SIDE LOT LINES
 (33 - 291)

33-292 - Required yards along district boundary coincident with rear lot lines of two adjoining zoning lots

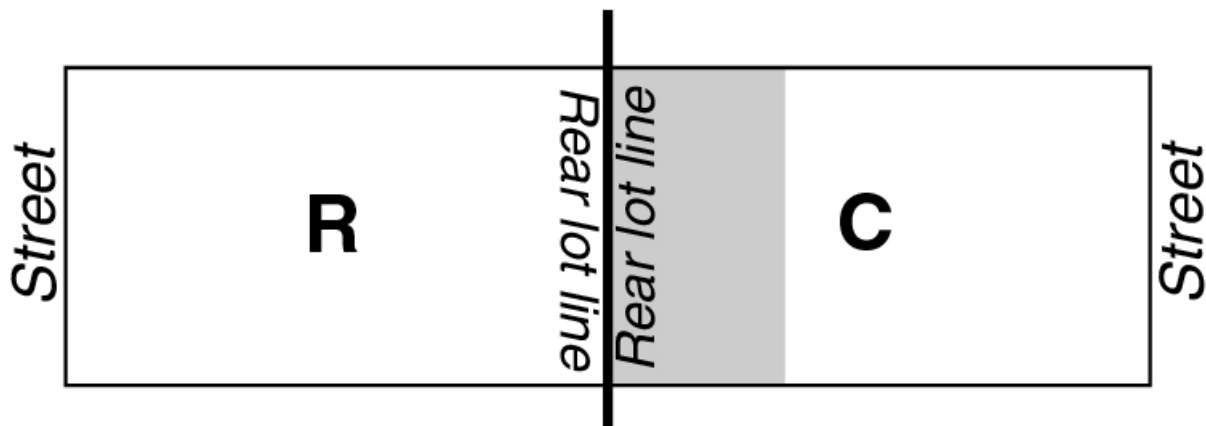
LAST AMENDED
 12/15/1961



C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, along such portion of the #rear lot line# of a #zoning lot# in a #Commercial District# which coincides with a #rear lot line# of a #zoning lot# in an adjoining #Residence District#, an open area at a level not higher than indicated in the following table, shall be provided along such boundary and within the #Commercial District#. Such an open area shall not be used for storage or processing of any kind.

REQUIRED DEPTH OF YARD

Districts	Maximum Level of #Yard#	Depth (in feet)
C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7	23 feet above #curb level#	30
C8	#Curb level#	30



 30' required Open Area
 District Boundary

REQUIRED YARD ALONG DISTRICT BOUNDARIES COINCIDENT WITH REAR LOT LINES
(33 - 292)

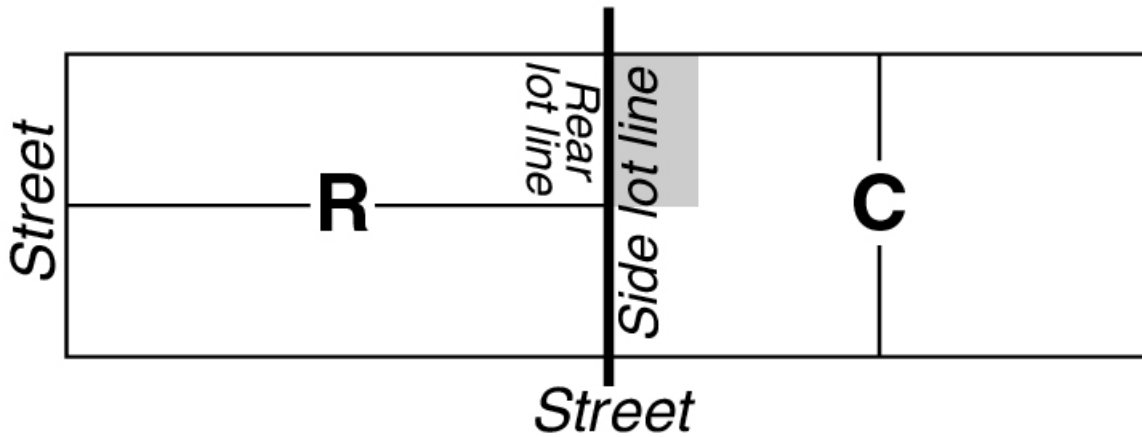
33-293 - Required yards along district boundary coincident with side lot line of zoning lot in a Commercial District



LAST AMENDED
12/15/1961

C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8

In all districts, as indicated, along such portion of a #side lot line# of a #zoning lot# in a #Commercial District# that coincides with a #rear lot line# of a #zoning lot# in an adjoining #Residence District#, an open area at #curb level# of at least the width set forth in the following table shall be provided along such boundary within the #Commercial District#. Such an open area shall not be used for #accessory# off-street loading, or for storage or processing of any kind.

Districts	Required Width of #Yard# (in feet)
C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7	8
C8	15



-  Required Open Area
8' or 15' width
-  District Boundary

REQUIRED YARD ALONG DISTRICT BOUNDARIES
(33 - 293)