



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Bill de Blasio, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Marisa Lago, Chair

23-44 - Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents

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23-44 - Permitted Obstructions in Required Yards or Rear Yard Equivalents

LAST AMENDED
3/22/2016

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

- (a) In any #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# :
- (1) Air conditioning condensation units, #accessory#, for #single-# or #two-family residences#, provided that such units, if located between a #street wall#, or prolongation thereof, and a #street line#, are not more than 18 inches from a #street wall#, and fully screened from the #street# by vegetation;
 - (2) Arbors or trellises;
 - (3) 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;
 - (4) Balconies, unenclosed, of a #building# containing #residences# subject to the applicable provisions of Section 23-13. Such balconies are not permitted in required #side yards# ;
 - (5) Canopies;
 - (6) Chimneys, projecting not more than three feet into, and not exceeding two percent of the area of, the required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# ;
 - (7) 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;
 - (8) 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# ;

- (9) Fences, not exceeding four feet in height above adjoining grade in any #front yard#, except that for #corner lots# a fence may be up to six feet in height within that portion of one #front yard# that is between a #side lot line# and the prolongation of the side wall of the #residence# facing such #side lot line# ;
- (10) Fire escapes, projecting into a #front yard#, only in such cases where the fire escape is required for the #conversion# of a #building# in existence before December 15, 1961;
- (11) Flagpoles;
- (12) Overhanging portions of a #building# in R4 and R5 Districts, except R4-1, R4A, R4B, R5A, R5B or R5D Districts, which are above the first #story# including the #basement# and which project not more than three feet into the required 18-foot #front yard#. In no case shall the lowest level of the projected portion be less than seven feet above the level of the #front yard# at the face of the #building#. Supports for the projected portion of any #building# are permitted obstructions within the required #front yard#, provided that the total area occupied by such supports does not exceed 15 percent of the area underneath the projected portion. No support may extend beyond the three-foot projection;
- (13) Parking spaces for automobiles or bicycles, off-street, open, #accessory#, within a #side# or #rear yard# ;
- (14) Parking spaces, off-street, open, within a #front yard#, that are #accessory# to a #building# containing #residences#, provided that:
 - (i) in R1, R2, R3-1, R3A, R3X, R4-1, R4A and R5A Districts, except in #lower density growth management areas#, such spaces meet all the requirements of paragraph (a) of Section 25-621 (Location of parking spaces in certain districts);
 - (ii) in R3-2 Districts, R4 Districts other than R4-1, R4A and R4B Districts, and R5 Districts other than R5A, R5B and R5D Districts, such spaces meet all the requirements of paragraph (b) of Section 25-621;
 - (iii) in #lower density growth management areas#, such spaces are non-required and are located in a driveway that accesses parking spaces that are located behind the #street wall# of the #building# or prolongation

thereof;

However, no parking spaces of any kind shall be permitted in any #front yard# in an R4B, R5B or R5D District. Furthermore, no parking spaces of any kind shall be permitted in any #front yard# on a #zoning lot# containing an #attached# or #semi-detached building# in an R1, R2, R3A, R3X, R4A or R5A District, or in any #front yard# on a #zoning lot# containing an #attached building# in an R3-1 or R4-1 District;

- (15) Ramps for persons with physical disabilities;
- (16) 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;
- (17) Steps, provided that such steps access only the lowest #story# or #cellar# of a #building# fronting on a #street#, which may include a #story# located directly above a #basement# ;
- (18) Swimming pools, #accessory#, above-grade structures limited to a height not exceeding eight feet above the level of the #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#. #Accessory# swimming pools are not permitted obstructions in any #front yard# ;
- (19) Terraces or porches, open;
- (20) Walls, not exceeding eight feet in height above adjoining grade and not roofed or part of a #building#, and not exceeding four feet in height in any #front yard#, except that for #corner lots#, a wall may be up to six feet in height within that portion of one #front yard# that is between a #side lot line# and the prolongation of the side wall of the #residence# facing such #side lot line# ;

(b) In any #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent# :

- (1) Balconies, unenclosed, subject to the provisions of Section 23-13;
- (2) Breezeways;
- (3) Fire escapes;
- (4) Greenhouses, non-commercial, #accessory#, limited to one #story# or 15 feet in height above adjoining grade, whichever is less, and limited to an area not exceeding 25 percent of a required #rear yard# ;
- (5) Parking spaces, off-street, #accessory#, for automobiles or bicycles, provided that:
 - (i) if #accessory# to a #single-# or #two-family residence#, the height of a #building# containing such parking spaces shall not exceed 10 feet in height above the adjoining grade and such #building# shall be #detached#

from such #residence#. Furthermore, if located in an R1 District, such #building# may not be nearer than five feet to a #rear lot line# or #side lot line#. In R2A Districts, detached garages shall be included in #lot coverage#. In addition, solar energy systems, limited to 18 inches in height, as measured perpendicular to the roof surface, shall be permitted upon the roof of such #accessory building# within the #rear yard# ;

- (ii) if #accessory# to any other kind of #building# containing #residences#, the height of a #building#, or portion thereof, containing such parking spaces within the #rear yard#, shall not exceed 10 feet above adjoining grade, including the apex of a pitched roof in R3, R4 or R5 Districts, or 15 feet above #curb level# or #base plane#, as applicable, in R6, R7, R8, R9 or R10 Districts. In addition, decks, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs, and weirs, as set forth in Section 23-62 (Permitted Obstructions), and solar energy systems, limited to 18 inches in height, as measured perpendicular to the roof surface, shall be permitted upon the roof of such #accessory building# within the #rear yard# ;
 - (iii) enclosed #accessory# parking spaces for bicycles shall be #accessory# to a #residence# other than a #single-# or #two-family residence#, attached to a #building#, and the area dedicated to such spaces shall not exceed the area of bicycle parking spaces permitted to be excluded from #floor area# pursuant to Section 25-85 (Floor Area Exemption);
- (6) Recreational or drying yard equipment;
 - (7) 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# ;
 - (8) 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#.
 - (9) any portion of a #building# used for #residential uses# other than #dwelling units# in #Quality Housing buildings# containing #affordable independent residences for seniors# on #zoning lots# meeting the criteria set forth in paragraph (a)(4) of Section 23-664 (Modified height and setback regulations for certain Inclusionary Housing buildings or affordable independent residences for seniors), provided that:
 - (i) such #zoning lot# is located in an R6 through R10 District other than an R6B, R7B or R8B District;
 - (ii) the height of such #building# portion does not exceed one #story#, or 15 feet above the adjoining grade, whichever is less;
 - (iii) such #building# portion is located within 100 feet of a #wide street# ; and

(iv) such space shall be accessible to all residents of the #building#.

In addition, decks, parapet walls, roof thickness, skylights, vegetated roofs and weirs, as set forth in Section 23-62 (Permitted Obstructions), and solar energy systems, limited to 18 inches in height, as measured perpendicular to the roof surface, shall be permitted upon the roof of such portion of a #building# within the #rear yard#.

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#.

23-441 - Location of garages in side yards of corner lots

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

In all #Residence Districts#, on #corner lots#, enclosed #accessory# off-street parking spaces shall be considered permitted obstructions in any portion of a #side yard# which is within 30 feet of both #side lot lines#, provided that, in an R1 or R2A District, on a #corner lot# whose mean width is 45 feet or more, no structure used for such purposes shall be less than five feet from any #side lot line#. In R2A Districts, detached garages shall be included in #lot coverage#.

23-442 - Location of garages in side yards of other zoning lots

LAST AMENDED
2/2/2011

In all #Residence Districts#, on #zoning lots# other than #corner lots#, where no #rear yard# is required under the provisions of Sections 23-541 (Within one hundred feet of corners) or 23-542 (Along short dimension of block), enclosed #accessory# off-street parking spaces shall be considered permitted obstructions in any portion of a #side yard# that is within 30 feet of the #rear lot line#.