

Recommendations to Improve Waste Containerization in NYC

We are in support of NYC's plans to containerize waste but recommend adjustments for large buildings and walk-ups to incorporate best practices seen in other cities such as Paris and Barcelona.

Large buildings : Use temporary bins at the curb instead of permanent containers

[DSNY'S proposed](#) plan for large buildings will use permanent containers in the street, which will occupy up to 25% of available curb space. DSNY acknowledges that their solution is unfeasible for about a quarter of the city's waste. Since any waste collection in public space encourages misuse and illegal dumping, their solution will also require substantial cleaning and maintenance.

Our solution would allow buildings to stage wheeled bins during the collection window. This would occupy about half the space, temporarily, allowing access for passenger pick-up and drop-off, deliveries and other curbside uses later in the day. It is feasible for all residential waste, costs less and requires less maintenance.

DSNY's proposal

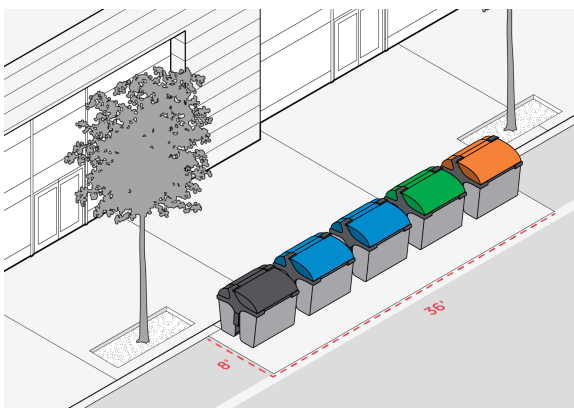


DSNY's proposal would allow 50 permanent containers, like these in Barcelona, on a single block.

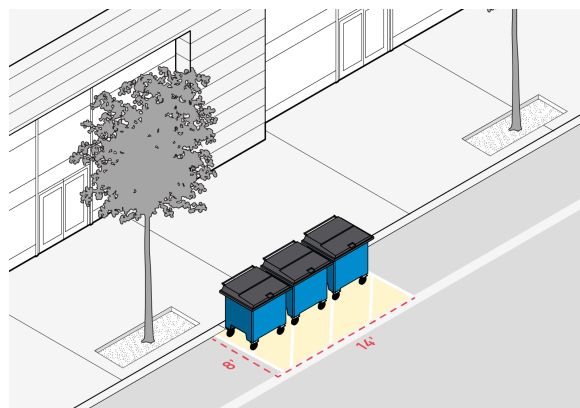
CfZWD's recommendation



As seen in Paris, large buildings can stage 4-wheeled bins temporarily at the curb for pickup.



DSNY's proposal for a building with 100 dwelling units would permanently block 36 ft of curb access.



Staging 4-wheeled bins for the same 100 unit building takes less than half the space temporarily.

Buildings that want to use temporary bins for waste collection can modify chute compactors to feed into galvanized steel 4-wheeled bins rather than bags. These provide additional compaction, and the bins fit into elevators and are lightweight for easy maneuvering. With slight adjustments to DSNY collection schedules, these bins will take no more storage space than buildings use currently for piles of bags. DSNY can easily service wheeled bins by installing a rear lift, as they have done for their current pilot in upper Manhattan.

Small buildings : Use shared containers at the curb instead of numerous bins on sidewalks

DSNY [will require](#) all residential buildings with nine or fewer apartments to purchase standard 2-wheeled bins and allow them to be placed permanently on the sidewalk, within 3 ft of the building. Walk-ups, especially if above storefronts, typically have no interior space for bin storage so the bins will be permanently staged on sidewalks.

We propose using shared permanent containers in the street, similar to those DSNY proposes for larger buildings, giving sidewalk space for pedestrians and NYC's vibrant streetlife. On these types of blocks, with more frequent collection by DSNY, containers could occupy only 4 parking spaces, under 5% of curb space.

DSNY's proposal



Bins, for restaurant and 8 residential units above, seen congesting public sidewalk space in Brooklyn.

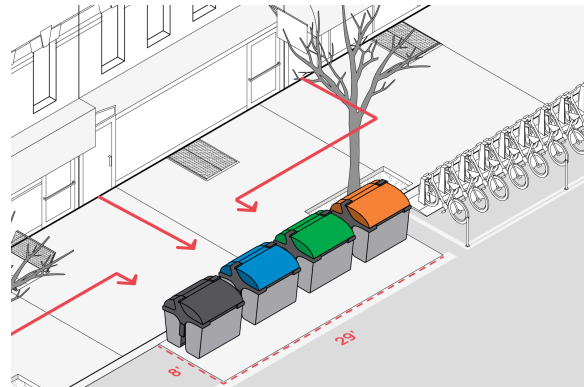


A 9 unit building will require \pm 13 bins for residences plus additional bins for the storefront business, exceeding the permitted 3 ft zone.

CfZWD's recommendation



Shared containers in the street opens space at storefronts and sidewalks for alternative uses.



Shared containers in the street serve multiple residences. Commercial shared containers could be provided by haulers for storefront businesses.

For more information about residential waste container best practices contact Clare Miflin, Executive Director of the Center for Zero Waste Design