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

DSNY will require all residential buildings with 1-9 units to purchase standard 2-wheeled bins to set out trash for collection, while buildings with 10-30 units will have the option to purchase these bins. Many buildings have storefronts or steps on the ground floor, so the bins can’t be stored inside. These bins may be permanently stored on the sidewalk within 3 ft of the building. If trash is more convenient to dispose of than recycling, the city’s diversion rates will go down.

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.

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

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

Source: @litter_nyc

A 6 unit building with a storefront will require at least 8 bins which totally fills the sidewalk space on a typical 25’ wide building.

Staging containers in the street frees up the sidewalk for pedestrians and street life.
With DSNY’s new rule for commercial containers, there are bins lining storefronts impeding pedestrians.

DSNY: Permanent bins line sidewalks

A 9-unit building will require 6 trash and 1 organics bins and many buildings have stairs and lowered ground floors, meaning these bins will need to be permanently staged on sidewalks.

Some buildings already have permanent trash and recycling bins staged on sidewalks.

CfZWD: Shared containers in street

A 20-unit building will require at least 12 trash and 2 organics bins which totally fills the sidewalk space.

Throughout the city commercial waste bins are permanently chained to street trees, bike racks and poles.

Staging containers in the street frees up the sidewalk for pedestrians and streetlife. Having recycling and organics bins alongside trash will increase waste diversion.