



Dumpsters in the Public Way

Permit & Development Center

809 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI 53202 | (414) 286-8211 | milwaukee.gov/permits | DevelopmentCenterInfo@milwaukee.gov

A permit is required before you place dumpsters in the public right-of-way (street, sidewalk, or alley). The permit is obtained at the Development Center, located at 809 N. Broadway, 1st floor. The permit fee is based on the length of time the dumpster occupies the public way and the amount of space occupied by the dumpster.

The following requirements apply to the placement of dumpsters in the public way. Questions about these requirements should be directed to the Dept. of Public Works parking operations office, (414) 286- 3276 or (414) 286-3231.

- Dumpsters may not be placed on streets or alleys which are open to vehicular traffic from December 1 to March 1. Dumpsters may not be placed in traffic lanes.
- Dumpsters may not be placed in posted "No Parking" zones, "Towaway" zones or "Bus Loading" zones. This includes full-time and part-time zones. Examples are "No Parking Anytime," "No Parking 7 a.m. to 9 a.m." or "No Parking 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m."
- Dumpsters may not be placed in illegal parking spaces, such as crosswalk areas, at hydrants or in driveway approaches.
- Dumpsters shall not be placed within 10 feet of the following: street tree, police call box, utility or street light pole, pad mounted transformer, fire escape or fire exit.
- Dumpsters placed at parking meters must have the meters hooded or removed for a fee. Contact Parking Operations at (414) 286-3271.
- Dumpsters may not extend more than 8 feet into the roadway from the face of the curb.
- Dumpsters shall be set back 60 feet from any intersecting cross street curb lane and 20 feet from any intersecting alley.
- Dumpsters shall be placed adjacent to the work area. If they are placed in front of a business or residence that is not involved with the work, permission must be obtained from the affected property owner by the applicant for the permit.
- Dumpsters shall be delineated on the traffic approach side with one Type I barricade with an attached flashing yellow light and a minimum 8" x 24" reflective barricade type sheeting focused toward approaching traffic and attached to the upper portion of the dumpster. You must provide your own barricade with flashing light. DPW, including the Sanitation Division does not provide barricades for these purposes. Contact the firm that rented the dumpster to you or call a traffic sign firm. Two firms in the Milwaukee area that rent cones, barrels, barricades and flashers are: Traffic Signing and Marking at (414) 786-6900 and Barricade Flasher at (414) 764-4790.
- Dumpsters placed in alleys must be placed to allow a minimum of 11 feet for traffic. Both ends of the dumpster must be delineated as in the previous item. Dumpsters placed in alleys must not block fire exits nor be placed under fire escapes.
- Dumpsters placed in the sidewalk area must maintain 5 feet for pedestrian access. Protective barricades together with signs at both ends must be used so that the passageway for pedestrians is well defined.