



## Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, 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

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LAST AMENDED  
12/6/2023

In all #Residence Districts#, the obstructions set forth in this Section, inclusive, shall be permitted within a required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#.

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## 23-441 - General permitted obstruction allowances

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LAST AMENDED  
12/6/2023

In all #Residence Districts#, the following obstructions shall be permitted within any required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#. These allowances are generally common to #Residence#, #Commercial# and #Manufacturing Districts#.

- (a) In any #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:
- (1) #Accessory# mechanical equipment, limited in depth to 18 inches from an exterior wall;
  - (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) Bicycles or micromobility parking, including necessary ancillary structures;
  - (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, downspouts, or other similar projections, extending 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) Electric vehicle charging equipment;
  - (9) Flagpoles;

- (10) #Qualifying exterior wall thickness#;
  - (11) Ramps or lifts for people with physical disabilities;
  - (12) Solar energy systems, #accessory# or as part of an #energy infrastructure equipment#:
    - (i) 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; or
    - (ii) above other permitted obstructions, as applicable, provided that the additional height shall be limited to 18 inches;
  - (13) Terraces or porches, open;
  - (14) Window sills, or similar projections extending into such #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# not more than four inches;
- (b) In any #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:
- (1) Breezeways;
  - (2) Fire escapes;
  - (3) 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#;
  - (4) Recreational or drying yard equipment;
  - (5) 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#;
  - (6) Solar energy systems, #accessory# or as part of an #energy infrastructure equipment#:
    - (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; however, limited to 18 inches in height as measured perpendicular to the roof surface when located above a detached #accessory# #building or other structure#, or on any roof with a slope greater than 20 degrees; or
    - (ii) affixed to solar canopies and located over any #accessory# off-street parking space, provided that the height shall not exceed 15 feet above the level of the adjoining grade;
  - (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# which is also a required #front yard# or required #side yard# may contain any obstructions not permitted in such #front yard# or #side yard#.

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## 23-442 - Additional permitted obstructions

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In all #Residence Districts#, the obstructions set forth in Section [23-441](#) (General permitted obstruction allowances), as well as the following obstructions, shall be permitted within a required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:

- (a) In any #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:
- (1) 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#;
  - (2) 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#;
  - (3) 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;
  - (4) 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
  - (5) Parking spaces for automobiles, off-street, open, #accessory#, within a #side# or #rear yard#;
  - (6) 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;

- (7) #Energy infrastructure equipment# and #accessory# mechanical equipment, provided that:
  - (i) all equipment shall be subject to the applicable provisions of Section [26-60](#) (SPECIAL SCREENING

AND ENCLOSURE PROVISIONS);

- (ii) the size of all equipment, including any screening or portions of any #building# or other structure# enclosing such equipment, shall not exceed:
  - (a) an area equivalent to 25 percent of a required #yard#, or #rear yard equivalent#, and in addition, in #front yards#, is limited to an area not exceeding 25 square feet. However, for #corner lots#, one #front yard# may be treated as a #side yard# for the purpose of applying such size restrictions;
  - (b) in R1 through R5 Districts, a height of 10 feet above the adjoining grade in #rear yards#, #rear yard equivalents# and #side yards#, or a height of five feet above the adjoining grade in #front yards#; and
  - (c) in R6 through R10 Districts, a height of 15 feet above the adjoining grade;
- (8) 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#;
- (9) 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#;
- (10) 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) 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#;
    - (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), 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);

- (3) 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), 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#.

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### **23-443 - Location of garages in side yards of corner lots**

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LAST AMENDED  
12/6/2023

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#.

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### **23-444 - Location of garages in side yards of other zoning lots**

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LAST AMENDED  
12/6/2023

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#.