



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
Zohran K. Mamdani, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
Sideya Sherman, Chair

23-35 - Court Regulations

File generated by <https://zr.planning.nyc.gov> on 5/25/2026

23-35 - Court Regulations

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

#Inner court# regulations are set forth in Section [23-352](#) and #outer court# regulations are set forth in Section 23-353. Permitted obstructions in such #courts# are set forth in Section 23-351.

These regulations shall not apply to any #single-# or #two-family# #detached# #residence#.

A corner of a #court# may be cut off between walls of the same #building#, provided that the length of the wall of such cut-off does not exceed seven feet.

The Commissioner of Buildings may approve minor recesses, projections and architectural treatment of the outline of #courts# as long as these variations do not substantially change the depth or width of the #court#.

23-351 - Permitted obstructions in courts

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In the districts indicated, the obstructions permitted in Section [23-311](#) (Permitted obstructions in all yards, courts and open areas), as well as the following obstructions, shall be permitted within the minimum area and dimensions needed to satisfy the requirements for a #court#. For the purposes of applying such allowances to #courts#, all percentage calculations shall be applied to the area of the

#court# instead of the #yard#:

- (a) Fences;
- (b) Fire escapes in #outer courts#;

Fire escapes in #outer court recesses# not more than five feet in depth;

Fire escapes in #inner courts# where such fire escapes are required as a result of alterations in #buildings# existing before December 15, 1961;

Fire escapes in #outer court recesses# more than five feet in depth where such fire escapes are required as a result of alterations in #buildings# existing before December 15, 1961;

- (c) #Energy infrastructure equipment# and #accessory# mechanical equipment, subject to the requirements set forth in paragraph (g) of Section [23-312](#) (Additional permitted obstructions generally permitted in all yards);
- (d) Recreational or drying yard equipment.

In addition, for #courts# at a level higher than the first #story#, decks, skylights, parapet walls, roof thickness, solar energy systems up to four feet high, vegetated roofs, and weirs, as set forth in Section [23-41](#) (Permitted Obstructions), inclusive, shall be permitted.

23-352 - Inner court regulations

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In the districts indicated, the following #inner court# regulations shall apply:

- (a) where #legally required windows# face onto an #inner court#, for #buildings# or portions thereof at or below a height of 75 feet, the area of an #inner court# shall not be less than 800 square feet, and the minimum dimension of such #inner court# shall not be less than 20 feet, and above a height of 75 feet, where permitted, the area of an #inner court# shall not be less than 1,200 square feet, and the minimum dimension of such #inner court# shall not be less than 30 feet;
- (b) where no #legally required windows# face onto an #inner court#, for #buildings# or portions thereof at or below a height of 75 feet, the area of such small #inner court# shall not be less than 200 square feet and no dimension shall be less than 10 feet, and above a height of 75 feet, where permitted, the area of such small #inner court# shall not be less than 300 square feet and no dimension shall be less than 15 feet; and
- (c) the width of an #inner court recess# shall be at least equal to the depth of the #inner court recess#, except that such width need not exceed the minimum dimension for an #inner court#, relative to the height.

For the purposes of this Section, that portion of an open area not part of an #inner court# and over which, when viewed directly from above, lines perpendicular to a #lot line# may be drawn into such #inner court#, shall be considered part of such #inner court#.

23-353 - Outer court regulations

LAST AMENDED

12/5/2024

R1 R2 R3 R4 R5 R6 R7 R8 R9 R10 R11 R12

In the districts indicated, the following #outer court# regulations shall apply:

- (a) where #legally required windows# face onto an #outer court#, the width of such #outer court# shall be at least equal to the depth of such #outer court#, except that an #outer court# may extend to any depth where the width of the #outer court# is 20 feet or more in #buildings# or portions thereof, at or below a height of 75 feet, or where the width of the #outer court# is 30 feet or more above a height of 75 feet, where permitted;
- (b) where no #legally required windows# face onto an #outer court#, for #buildings# or portions thereof at or below a height of 75 feet, the area of such small #outer court# shall not be less than 200 square feet and no dimension shall be less than 10 feet, and above a height of 75 feet, where permitted, the area of such small #outer court# shall not be less than 300 square feet and no dimension shall be less than 15 feet; and
- (c) the width of an #outer court recess# shall be at least equal to the depth of the #outer court recess#, except where such width permits any depth for an #outer court#, relative to the height.