



Zoning Resolution

THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Eric Adams, Mayor

CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

Daniel R. Garodnick, Chair

23-31 - General Provisions

File generated by <https://zr.planning.nyc.gov> on 2/22/2025

23-31 - General Provisions

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

23-311 - Permitted obstructions in all yards, courts and open areas

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

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

- (a) #Accessory# mechanical equipment, limited in depth to 18 inches from an exterior wall;
- (b) Arbors or trellises;
- (c) 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:
 - (1) shall be limited to a maximum projection from a #building# wall of 2 feet, 6 inches; and
 - (2) 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;
- (d) Bicycle or micromobility parking, including necessary ancillary structures;
- (e) Canopies;
- (f) Chimneys, projecting not more than three feet into, and not exceeding two percent of the area of, the required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#;
- (g) 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;
- (h) Electric vehicle charging equipment;
- (i) Flagpoles;
- (j) #Qualifying exterior wall thickness#;
- (k) Ramps or lifts for people with physical disabilities;
- (l) Solar energy systems, #accessory# or as part of an #energy infrastructure equipment#:
 - (1) 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
 - (2) above other permitted obstructions, as applicable, provided that the additional height shall be limited to 18 inches;

- (m) Terraces or porches, open;
- (n) Window sills, or similar projections extending into such #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# not more than four inches.

23-312 - Additional permitted obstructions generally permitted in all yards

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

In all #Residence Districts#, the obstructions set forth in Section [23-311](#) (Permitted obstructions in all yards, courts and open areas), as well as the following obstructions, shall be permitted within any #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#:

- (a) Balconies, unenclosed, of a #building# containing #residences# subject to the applicable provisions of Section [23-62](#). Such balconies are not permitted in #side yards# or within five feet of the #side lot line# or #rear lot line# in a #rear yard# or #rear yard equivalent#;
- (b) 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#;
- (c) 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;
- (d) Overhanging portions of a #single-# or #two-family residence# , which are above the first #story# including the #basement# and which project not more than three feet into the #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;
- (e) Parking spaces for automobiles, off-street, open, #accessory#, within a #side# or #rear yard#;
- (f) Parking spaces, off-street, open, within a #front yard#, that are #accessory# to a #building# containing #residences#, provided that:
 - (1) 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);
 - (2) 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](#);
 - (3) in #lower density growth management areas#, such spaces 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, or the #front yard# of a #building# containing #residences# on a #qualifying residential site# in an R1 through R5 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;

- (g) #Energy infrastructure equipment# and #accessory# mechanical equipment, provided that:
- (1) all equipment shall be subject to the applicable provisions of Section [26-50](#) (SPECIAL SCREENING AND ENCLOSURE PROVISIONS);
 - (2) the size of all equipment, including any screening or portions of any #building or other structure# enclosing such equipment, shall not exceed:
 - (i) 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;
 - (ii) 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
 - (iii) in R6 through R12 Districts, a height of 15 feet above the adjoining grade;
- (h) 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#;
- (i) 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#;
- (j) 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#.

23-313 - Level and measurement of yards

LAST AMENDED
12/5/2024

In all #Residence Districts#, the level of a #yard# or of a #rear yard equivalent# shall not be higher than #curb level#, except that natural grade level need not be disturbed in order to comply with this requirement. No #building or other structure# shall be erected above ground level in any required #yard# or #rear yard equivalent#, except where permitted as an obstruction pursuant to Section [23-30](#), inclusive.

The width or depth of a #yard# or #rear yard equivalent# shall be measured perpendicular to #lot lines#.