



Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development
100-A Southwest Blvd.
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SHIPPING CONTAINER AND OPEN STORAGE GUIDELINES

Steps to follow when placing a storage container on your property:

1. Check with a representative of the Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development Department to discuss your plans for placing a storage container on your property. You may contact the Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development Department at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or email us at planning@catawbacountync.gov.
2. Submit an [application for a zoning permit](#) for a storage container. The application needs to include an 8 ½ x 11 inch or 8 ½ x 14 inch drawing, prepared to scale, showing the footprints of existing buildings or structures and the proposed location of the storage container. You may obtain a copy of a map of your property from Catawba County's Geographic Information System at www.gis.catawba.nc.us.
3. Obtain a zoning permit from the Planning, Parks and Development Department. You may reach the Planning Department by phone at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email at planning@catawbacountync.gov.
4. If you plan to install power or running water, contact the Permit Center at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email at permit_center@catawbacountync.gov for assistance or you may download a copy of an [application](#).

Residential storage:

If you want to use a shipping or storage container on residential property, the following guidelines apply:

- (a) Portable storage containers are temporarily allowed at your home for a 7-day period during moving. The time period may be extended in hardship situations.
- (b) Containers are allowed on farms as long as trees are planted or a fence is installed to screen it from roads and adjoining property.
- (c) Manufactured homes or truck trailers cannot be used for storage.

Non-residential storage:

Containers, shipping containers or other portable storage containers are allowed in office, commercial and industrial areas with the following guidelines:

- (a) The container needs to be screened from roads and adjoining property by trees or a fence/wall.
- (b) The container needs to be located at the side or behind the business.
- (c) The container needs to meet the setbacks of the zoning district.

For further information, see the Catawba County [Unified Development Ordinance, Section 44-623](#).

Screening for businesses with open storage:

If a business stores any equipment or materials outside, it needs to be hidden from roads and adjoining property by a berm, fence, or landscaping and be setback from adjoining property lines. For further information, see the Catawba County [Unified Development Ordinance, Section 44-527](#).

If you have questions concerning shipping containers or open storage, please call the Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development Department at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email us at planning@catawbacountync.gov. Please know that we are here to assist you throughout the process.

The purpose of this information sheet is to assist you with the process of obtaining permits and approvals associated with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Before proceeding with any project or spending any funds, you are strongly encouraged to contact a member of the Catawba County Planning, Parks and Development Department at 828-465-8380, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. or email us at planning@catawbacountync.gov to insure awareness of all options that may exist as well as the most effective way of accomplishing a particular project.