

Private Dumpster License Checklist

This document is intended to be used by L&I staff as a guide to determine if a license for a private dumpster can be issued.

1. Review Application
& Site Plan

2. Use Flow Chart
to Determine if
License can be
Issued

3. Act on
Application

Step 1

Collect and Review Application and Site Plan

A [site plan](#) showing the location and any proposed enclosures must be submitted.

Step 2

Determine if License can be issued using the [Flow Chart on Page 3](#).

Additional explanation of each question is provided below:

Will the dumpster be inside a building?

The Zoning Code, Building Code, Existing Building Code and Property Maintenance Codes all have requirements that affect the permitted locations of dumpsters and their screening requirements. If the dumpster is located within a building, these requirements will automatically be met.

Does a zoning permit issued by variance specify the location or screening requirement of the dumpster?

The zoning history of the property must be reviewed to determine if a previous proviso dictates the location of a dumpster or specifies a screening requirement.

How will the dumpster be screened?

The Philadelphia Building Code requires dumpsters used by new buildings and new occupancies to be located [within the building or entirely enclosed on all sides](#). If the dumpster is not being used by a new structure or new occupancy, it is permitted to be screened by [shrubbery, opaque fencing or an enclosure](#). In no circumstance can a private dumpster not provide screening.

Will the fence / wall be masonry?

The building material of the fence / wall must be identified. If the fence / wall is made of brick, stone, concrete block, etc. it is masonry.

The [Administrative Code](#) requires a permit for masonry fences that exceed 2ft in height.

Is the fence ≤ 6 ft AND in a rear yard?

The Philadelphia Zoning Code has [height and opacity requirements](#) of fencing based on the zoning district and location on the lot. If the fence does not exceed 6 ft and is located in the rear yard on the property, these requirements will automatically be met.



Note: Based on the definitions of the zoning code, a rear yard cannot be between a building and a street. It must be between a building and an interior lot line.

Is the structure new or is the occupancy new?

The Philadelphia Building Code requires dumpsters used by new buildings and new occupancies to be located [within the building or entirely enclosed on all sides](#).

The requirement pertaining to new structures applies to developments permitted using the 2018 Codes or later, per [Bill No 180176](#).

Step 3 **Act on Application**

Issue License

If it is determined that the proposed dumpster location is compliant, a license shall be issued.

Deny Application

If the determination has been made and the license shall be denied, provide the applicant with the Private Dumpster License Correspondence Letter.

Take Application in for Review

If an application is being taken in for review, if it because the application could potentially require a zoning for building permit for the enclosure.

A [Zoning Permit is Required](#) for fences that exceed the height and opacity permitted by the zoning code. The links below

- Residential: [14-706\(3\)](#) / [FAQ](#)
- Commercial: [14-706\(4\)](#) / [FAQ](#)
- Industrial: [FAQ](#) (Height is limited in the [Sight Triangle](#) only)
- SP-INS: [14-404\(8\)](#)
- SP-ENT: No limit (Height is limited in the [Sight Triangle](#) only)
- SP-STA: No limit (Height is limited in the [Sight Triangle](#) only)
- SP-PO: [14-407\(4\)](#)
- SP-AIR: [14-408\(7\)](#)

A [Building Permit is Required](#) for the following fences:

- Non-masonry ≥ 6 ft
- Masonry ≥ 2 ft



Private Dumpster License Flowchart

