

FAQ:

I want to build or place a shed on my property. What kind of permits do I need?

Background:

In most cases, the City of Philadelphia requires that an owner obtain a zoning permit and a building permit prior to building a structure. The code does; however, include some exceptions for smaller structures.

If a zoning or building permit is required, an application must be submitted to L&I for review prior to starting the project.

Answer:

The following table outlines permitting requirements for sheds that are accessory to **one- or two-family dwellings**:

Size of Shed	Zoning Permit Requirement	Building Permit Requirement
≤ 120 ft ²	In rear yard: Zoning Permit Not Required ¹ In front / side yard: Zoning Permit Required ²	Building Permit Not Required ⁵
> 120 ft ² and ≤ 130 ft ²	Allowable per Zoning Code ^{2,3} Zoning Permit Required	
> 130 ft ² and ≤ 200 ft ²	Not permitted per Zoning Code ^{2,4} Zoning Permit Required	
> 200 ft ²		Building Permit Required

Notes: 1. Same requirements apply to playhouses and pergolas.

2. Minimum yard and setback requirements apply.

3. Shall not exceed 15 ft in height.

4. If the application includes a shed that is not permitted by the zoning code, a refusal will be issued by L&I. An appeal must be filed with the Zoning Board of Adjustments. The appeal requires a community meeting and a public hearing.

5. Shall not exceed one-story.

Both zoning and building permits are required for sheds accessory to all other uses.

Additional Notes:

- Additional permits may be required, such as electrical, mechanical or plumbing permits.

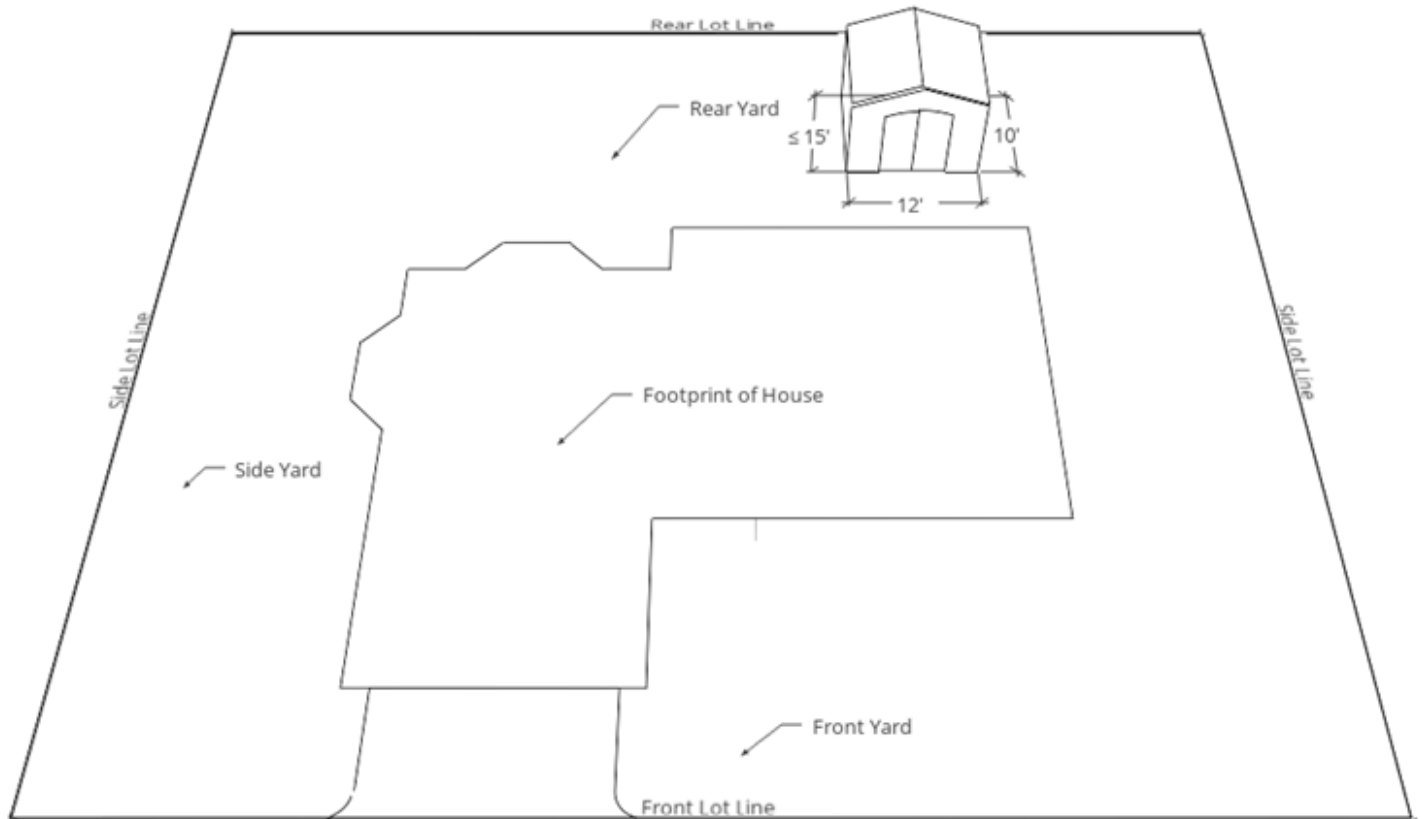
L&I Permit and License Center

1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Municipal Services Building, Public Service Concourse
Open 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Offices close at noon on the last Wednesday of each month.

Example #1:

In the example shown in the graphic below, the shed is located in the rear yard (between the house and the rear lot line). The shed is not greater than 120 ft² and the shed is not taller than 15 ft or one-story.

In this example, **a zoning permit is not required, and a building permit is not required.**



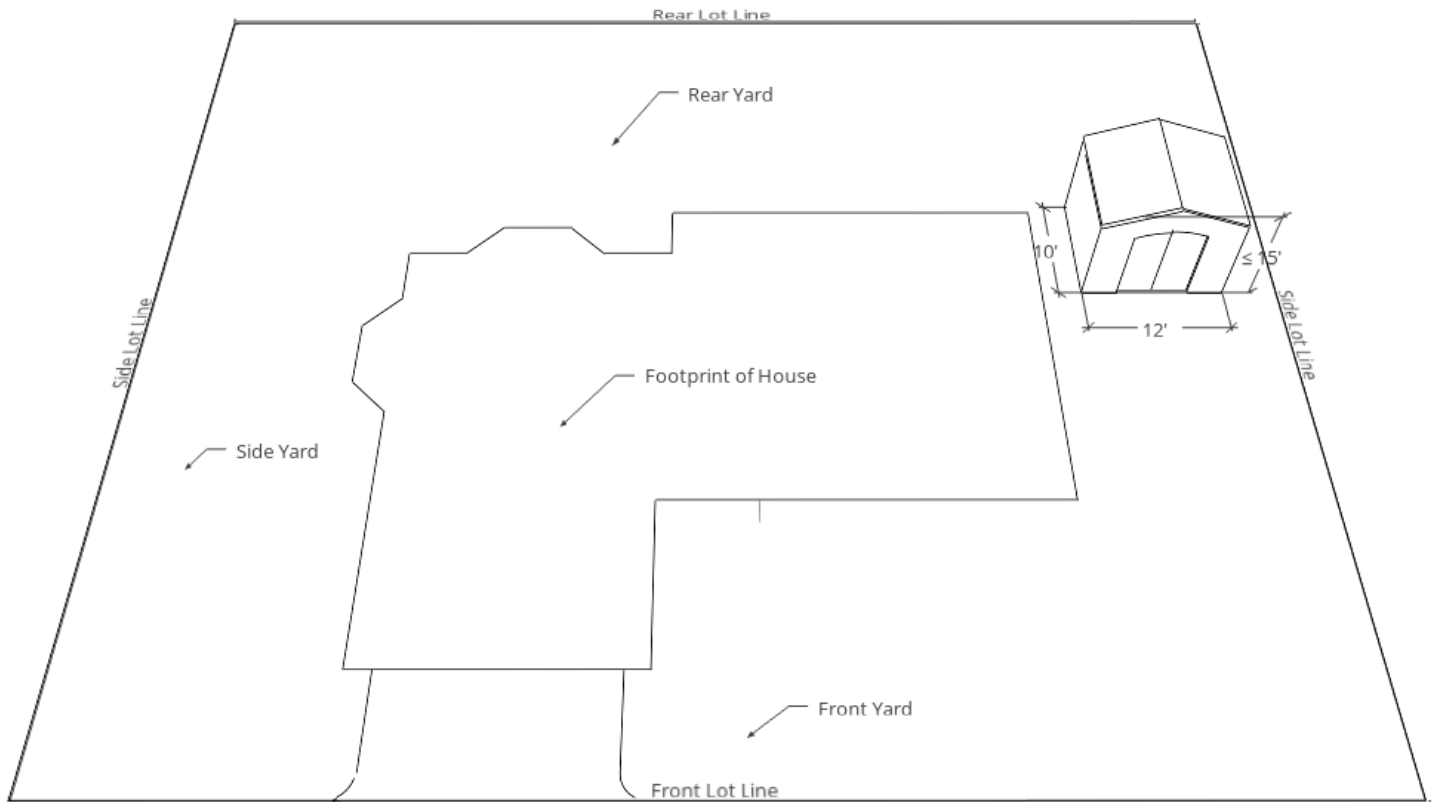
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Example #2:

In the example shown in the graphic below, the shed is located in the side yard (between the house and the side lot line). The shed is not greater than 120 ft² and the shed is not taller than 15 ft or one-story.

In this example, a **zoning permit is required**, and a **building permit is not required**.



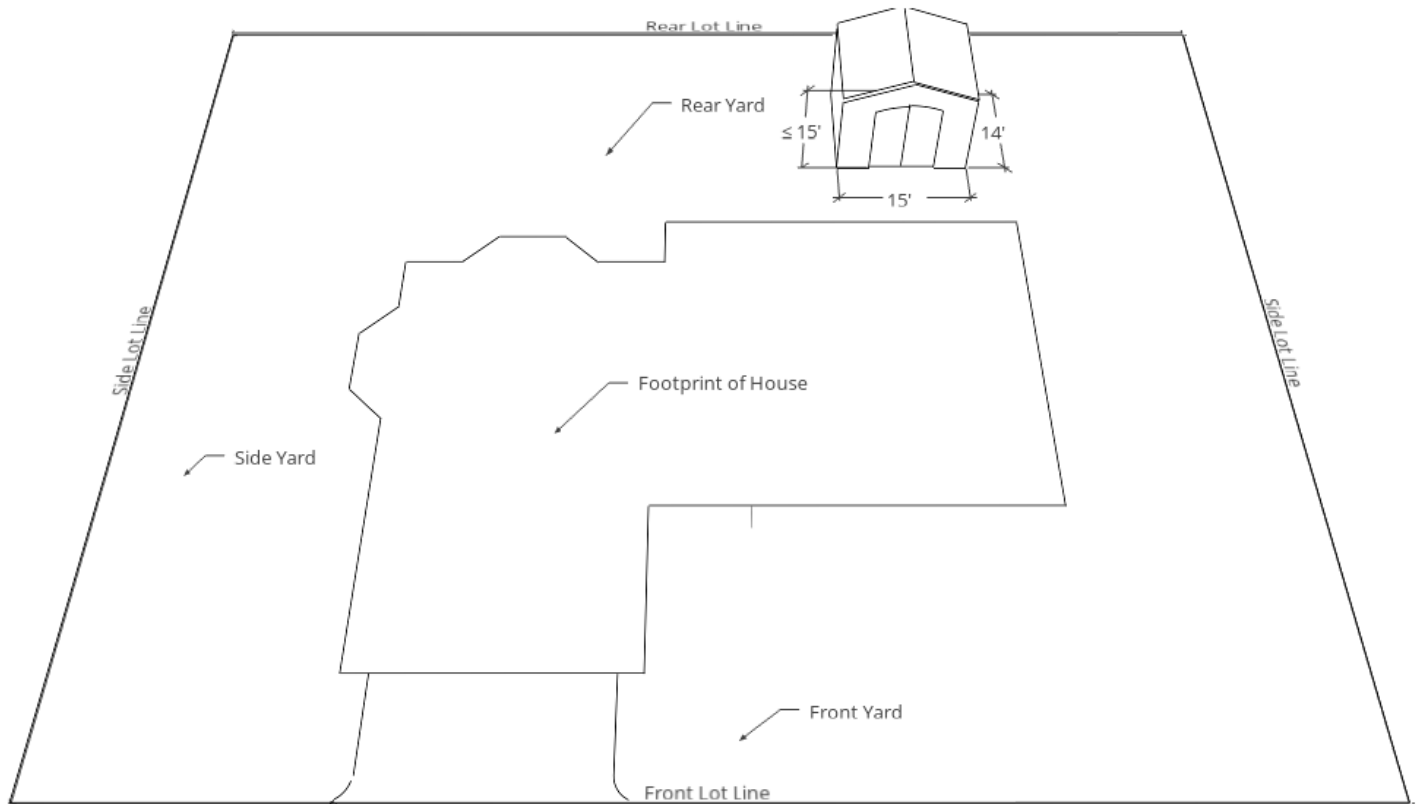
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Example #3:

In the example shown in the graphic below, the shed is located in the rear yard (between the house and the rear lot line). The shed is greater than 200 ft² and the shed is not taller than 15 ft or one-story.

In this example, a **zoning permit is required**, and a **building permit is required**.



Questions?

Call 311 or (215) 686-8686 (if outside Philadelphia) or submit a permit-related question online via <https://form.iotform.com/81494420572154>.

Disclaimer:

This interpretation, policy or code application is intended to provide guidance to staff for consistency of review and is subject to change without notice. Application of this interpretation, policy or code application to specific projects may vary. There may be other ways to comply with the Code. If so, you are not required to use this method. You may want to investigate other options or consult with a professional identifying an equally code compliant solution.

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