

# DONATION DROP-OFF BOXES



## What is a donation drop-off box?

Any portable outdoor container intended or used for the donation, collection, and short-term storage of items, such as clothing, toys, books, and shoes, which are removed from the donation drop-off box on a periodic basis.

## How is a donation drop-off box treated under the Zoning Ordinance?

Donation drop-off boxes are considered an accessory use subject to the use standards of Article 4 of the Zoning Ordinance, permitted only in conjunction with a principal use, such as a shopping center or commercial establishment, and not permitted as the sole use on a lot. They may be allowed on commercial properties zoned C-5 through C-8 where the lot size is a minimum of 40,000 square feet in size, absent any proffered or development conditions that preclude donation drop-off boxes. Donation drop-off boxes are permitted in commercial areas of planned (P) districts when located with a principal use and when shown on an approved development plan. Donation drop-off boxes are also permitted where specifically identified on a development plan that is approved in conjunction with a special permit or special exception for another use, or a proffered rezoning.

## What are the restrictions on the number of donation drop-off boxes?

If allowed, a maximum of two donation drop-off boxes are permitted on any one lot and must be located within a contiguous area not exceeding 120 square feet. No individual donation drop-off box may exceed seven feet in height, six feet in width or six feet in length.

## Allowable donation drop-off box locations

Donation drop-off boxes are not allowed in any minimum front setback, which is typically 40 feet in most commercial zoning districts.

Donation drop-off boxes are not allowed in required open space, transitional screening yards, landscaped area, private streets, sidewalks or trailers, or required parking spaces, or any location that blocks or interferes with vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian circulation.

## To report a possible violation:



**Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance**  
**12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035**

**Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711**

**Web: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code)**



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

*This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published July 2021) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.*