

DONATION DROP-OFF BOXES



What is a donation drop-off box?

Any portable outdoor container intended or used for the collection and storage of unwanted textile and household items such as clothing, toys, books, and shoes, which are removed from the container on a periodic basis. Refer to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance for a copy of the code section.

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

Drop-off boxes are considered an accessory use subject to the provisions of Paragraph 34 of Article 10-104 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-9 and certain P and R districts in accordance with certain county regulations, and subject to proffers and development conditions that would preclude or restrict them.

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

A maximum of two (2) donation drop-off boxes shall be permitted on any one (1) lot and shall be located within a contiguous area of not more than 120 square feet, with no individual drop-off box exceeding the dimensions of seven (7) feet in height, six (6) feet in width or six (6) feet in length.

Allowable donation drop-off box locations

The location of drop-off boxes is subject to the regulations for accessory storage structures in Paragraph 34C of Section 10-104 of the zoning ordinance as well as any proffers or development conditions. They are not permitted to be located anywhere in the front yard of lots zoned C-5 through C-9, which are less than 40,000 square feet in area. On larger lots, they may be in the front yard but must be set back a distance equal to the minimum front yard requirement of the zoning district, which is typically 40 feet in most commercial zoning districts.

They may not be in any transitional screening yard, landscaped open space (including parking lot landscaping), required parking spaces, in the public right-of-way, or in any location that could impede vehicular or pedestrian circulation, vision, or access within a site. Additional limitations apply to the location of any drop-off box exceeding eight and one-half feet in height.

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



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

This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published September 2016) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.