

# Placing a Moving Storage Container in the Right-of-Way

City of Tukwila - Permit Center  
6300 Southcenter Blvd, Suite 100  
Tukwila, WA 98188  
[www.tukwilawa.gov/departments/permit-center/](http://www.tukwilawa.gov/departments/permit-center/)



Planning to use a moving storage container (like a POD or similar) on a public street or in the right-of-way? Please review the following requirements.

## What Counts as a Vehicle?

Under Tukwila Municipal Code (TMC 9.04.020), a “vehicle” is every device designed to travel on a public highway and in, upon, or by which persons or property may be transported or drawn.

This includes automobiles, buses, trucks, motorbikes, scooters, tractors, trailers, campers, and golf carts.

If your storage container does not meet this definition, it is not considered a vehicle and will require a permit for placement.

## When a permit *is not* required:

- Short-Term Vehicles (Less than 72 Hours): If your container qualifies as a vehicle and is parked legally, it may remain in the right-of-way for up to 72 hours without a permit.

## When a permit *is* required:

- If the Container Is Not a Vehicle: It cannot be placed in the right-of-way without first obtaining a Special Event Permit.
- Long-Term (More Than 72 Hours): A Special Event Permit is required if your storage container will be stored in the right-of-way for more than 72 hours, even if it qualifies as a vehicle.

## Private Property Placement

Storage containers may be located on private property for a limited period of time, however may become subject to Code Enforcement should they remain in place indefinitely.

Proposals for permanent placement of storage containers must meet the standards set forth in TMC 18.50.060: Cargo Containers as Accessory Structures as outlined in the [Special Permission – Cargo Container](#) permit application.

## Why a Special Event Permit?

- Right-of-Way Use Permits are limited to construction projects that impact the public right-of-way. This permit type typically involves review of construction drawings, an on-site pre-construction meeting, frequent inspections, and the submission of as-built drawings at the end of the project.
- [Special Event Permits](#) apply to other temporary uses of the right-of-way that do not involve construction. This permit type typically includes review of a site plan, traffic control plan, and any temporary utility services.

## Special Event Permit Requirements

Applicants must provide:

- Completed [Special Event Application](#)
- [Traffic Control Plan](#) prepared by a professional that complies with TMC Chapter 9 (Vehicles & Traffic) and Chapter 11 (Right-of-Way Use)
- Site Map showing placement of the container and adjacent driveways
- Authorization from Property Owner (if applicable)
- Additional information as determined by City review

Permit Review: All City departments, including Police, Public Works, and Fire, will review applications to ensure compliance with safety and code requirements.

Permit Duration: If a container remains in the right-of-way longer than the approved timeframe, the applicant may be subject to fines.

## Key Municipal Code Reminders

- 72-Hour Rule (TMC 9.20.050): No vehicle may be stored on public streets for more than 72 hours.
- Interference with Traffic (TMC 9.21.030): It is unlawful to obstruct or interfere with safe traffic flow in the right-of-way.

## Questions?

For more information about Special Event Permits, visit:

<https://www.tukwilawa.gov/departments/permit-center/temporary-special-event-permit/>

Or contact the Tukwila Permit Center:

- Phone: 206-431-3670
- Email: [Permits@TukwilaWA.gov](mailto:Permits@TukwilaWA.gov)