

Outdoor Trash Toter Bin Storage Etiquette

Storing our blue trash toter bin outdoors, instead of in the garage or a shed, may be a necessary part of life for some City of Delaware residents, but it can also be a hassle. Outdoor trash cans can be an eyesore, and it's hard to find a convenient, yet out-of-the-way place to keep them.



Storage Tips

Is there a place in your garage, back porch, or shed where you can keep the trash can and recycle bin? Is there a place out of sight from the street? Most homeowner associations require trash cans to be placed out of sight when not at the curb ready for pick up. Sometimes this is an easy fix, but other times the garage, shed, or other area up for consideration isn't the right answer because of the convenience factor or lack of space. If putting your trash can in the shed means you have to walk all the way across your lawn every time you throw something away, then it's not the right answer.

In a situation like that, where there is no place to hide the trash can from public view or no enclosure in a logical place that you can use, consider building one. This isn't meant to suggest that residents construct a new garage or storage shed; building an enclosure for trash cans doesn't have to be a complex thing. A trash can enclosure can be as simple as a small framed structure with sides, one of which is hinged to swing open. Or, skip the hinges and just leave one side of the trash enclosure open. The enclosure need not be much larger than the toter itself, and you can put it nearly anywhere that works best for you.

It's always a good idea to first check with your homeowner's association, if your property is included in one, to see what, if any, restrictions, might apply to such a structure. And while the City doesn't require a building permit for toter bin enclosures we do require permits for sheds and other similar structures. A good rule of thumb is to keep any trash enclosure out of the front yard area (the area from the front of your house to the street) and within side and rear yards, only, and about three feet off of a property line. In side yards, you might check if there is an easement for utilities of some kind and avoid those areas as well. If you have a unique situation and would like to discuss it, we're happy to work with you to find a good hiding spot for your trash bins and answer any other questions at 740-203-1600.

If building an enclosure is out of the question, don't despair. Many home improvement stores sell enclosures designed just for this purpose, and it's worth the purchase to keep your toter protected and in a convenient spot, not to mention to keep it from making your yard, porch or front of your house look lousy.

Instead of building a structure, think natural. It might be possible to simply place your bins around the side of the garage or house and strategically plant landscaping or shrubbery to conceal everything.

Most importantly, think about how outdoor toter storage will affect those around you, and be sure you practice common courtesy, be it neighboring homes or next-door businesses. How our community looks impacts us all, as well as your individual property value.