
PLANNING

OFFICE

MEMO

To: FILE
From: Planning Staff
Subject: Portable on Demand Storage Units
Date: June 18, 2007

The Lawrence Planning Office received an inquiry regarding the review and administration of these portable storage containers/cargo boxes. The Development Code does not specifically list 'portable storage containers' as a permitted use.

A survey of the National PODS [Portable on Demand Storage] indicates that for both residential and business application such storage units may be placed for a short duration for loading and unloading or they may be placed indefinitely. If the storage unit is placed on site for moving purposes (such as loading and unloading) the expectation is that the unit will be located on site two weeks or less. Durations longer than that are no longer temporary and are subject to applicable City Development Code regulations.

The activity and description of portable container fits most closely and is most similar to the definition of an accessory structure when left in place for an extended length of time, longer than two weeks.

Use of storage containers are not allowed in the front yard except for strictly loading and unloading with the end result that the container will be removed from the property within two weeks or will be relocated on the site compliant with provisions of accessory structures.

Location of the storage container in the driveway shall not be allowed to reduce the minimum required off-street parking for residential applications. Commercial sites shall retain sufficient excess parking on site to accommodate an accessory building within the parking lot. Such container shall be subject to site plan, building setback and screening as applicable to the site.