

Article 15 of the Public Works Code and Public Works Order 179201 establish permit requirements and guidelines for debris box placement within the public right of way.



### San Francisco Public Works

#### Street-Use and Mapping

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### San Francisco Public Works

#### Permit Center

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 200

**Processing Hours:** Please visit  
<https://sf.gov/location/permit-center>  
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# Debris Box

Permit requirements and placement guidelines in the public right of way



[www.sfpublicworks.org](http://www.sfpublicworks.org)

## 1. WHAT IS A DEBRIS BOX?

A debris box is a portable, non-vehicular container used by a debris box company to dispose of debris and waste materials, including waste materials derived from construction, reconstruction, alteration or demolition of real property structures. The materials are placed into the debris box and transported through City streets for proper disposal.

## 2. WHAT ARE THE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS?

All debris box companies that intend to place one or more debris boxes within the public right of way to service a project will need to obtain either an annual registration permit or a 7-day permit for operation within San Francisco. An additional street space or temporary occupancy permit is required for placement at a specific location.

### DEBRIS BOX COMPANIES/OWNERS-REGISTRATION

#### ■ Annual Registration Permit

► Companies that elect to register their debris boxes on an annual basis shall submit a list of box numbers to the Bureau of Street-Use and Mapping with their applications.

#### ■ 7-Day Permit

► Companies that elect to purchase 7-day permits for their debris boxes may obtain permits at the Bureau of Street-Use and Mapping.

► Upon expiration of the 7-day permit, the debris box companies shall remove their debris boxes from the placement sites.

### PLACEMENT/RENTAL - PERMIT

#### ■ Temporary Occupancy Permit

► Applicants may apply for a temporary occupancy permit to use a debris box for up to 14 consecutive days at a single location. Temporary occupancy permits may be obtained at 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 200.

#### ■ Street Space Permit

► Applicants may use debris boxes in association with a street space permit in one-month increments. Street space permits may be obtained from 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 200. Street space permits are typically associated with a building permit.

## 3. WHAT ARE THE PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS?

**A.** Debris boxes shall be placed in the lane, parallel to the curb, with their outer edges no further than the width of the parking lane.

**B.** Four reflective-type warning devices, each having a red reflecting area of at least 3 inches in diameter, must be installed on the exterior ends of each debris box. The reflective device shall be placed so that one device is located near each edge that abuts the side of the debris box and is no less than 24 inches and no more than 45 inches from the ground level. Both ends of each debris box shall have diagonal striping compliant with current regulations.

**C.** All contents of a debris box shall be completely covered at all times while being transported.

**D.** The owner's name, address, telephone number and debris box identification number shall be clearly printed on both long sides of a debris box.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE RESTRICTIONS?

**A.** No debris box shall be placed on the sidewalk without special permission from Public Works due to extenuating circumstances that are subject to review.

**B.** No debris box may be placed entirely or partially in a traffic lane.

**C.** No debris box shall be delivered, placed or removed in a residential area between the hours of 7 p.m. and 6 a.m.

**D.** Advertisement shall not be placed on any debris box.

**E.** When full, debris boxes shall be removed from the placement site within two business days. Full shall be defined as debris at or exceeding the rim line of the box.

**F.** Debris box placement shall be governed by traffic and parking regulations as stated in Section 725.5 of the Public Works Code, including, but not limited to, tow-away zones, accessible curb ramps, bus stops, handicapped parking zones and fire hydrant zones. On streets regulated with "No Parking-Tow Away" signs, the debris boxes shall be removed during posted hours. Contact the Division of Traffic Engineering of the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) for special permission prior to placing debris boxes in restricted areas.

**G.** All debris box companies hauling construction and demolition (C&D) debris material are required to comply with San Francisco's Department of Environment C&D Ordinance (No. 27-06).

### VIOLATIONS

Any debris box placed in the public right of way in violation of the debris box requirements shall be removed at the direction of Public Works. Removal shall take place no later than 48 hours after notice is given describing the violation. The Director of Public Works can authorize the immediate removal of a debris box when it constitutes a safety hazard or public nuisance or when the presence of an emergency requires the removal of that box. All costs related to the removal and storage of the debris box will be billed to the owner of the debris box company. In addition to the notice of violation, penalties up to \$300 per day may be incurred.

**Here are the most common violations relating to Debris Box in the public right of way.** (Article 15, Section 724 & 725)

- No permit / No registration # / Not registered / Not bonded with San Francisco Public Works
- Missing reflectors / Damaged reflectors / Insufficient striping
- Graffiti / Messy construction site / Refuse / Overflow debris
- Materials / Equipment occupy space without permit



**VIOLATION:** Improper placement: Not parallel to curb



**VIOLATION:** No company name and exceeds allowable capacity