



ADA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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BUILDING • COMMUNITY PLANNING • ENGINEERING & SURVEYING • PERMITTING

SHIPPING CONTAINER REQUIREMENTS

Shipping Containers, also known as Conex Boxes or Sea Cans, have become popular personal storage structures on residential and rural parcels in Ada County, due to affordability and pre-assembly; however, some storage containers require permitting and special setting instructions.

- **8' by 20'** stand-alone shipping containers fall under the International Residential Code's definition of a one-story detached accessory structure with a floor area not exceeding 200 sq ft (160 sq ft) and are exempted from permitting and setbacks requirements. We ask that you stay clear of easements and drain fields, and that shipping containers are set on a firm, level surface, like concrete slabs or blocks, railroad ties, or compacted gravel pads. Maintain 6' of separation from all other structures.
- **8' by 40'** stand-alone shipping containers (320 sq ft) must meet setbacks per the applicable residential or rural zone and require a permit and one inspection. The cost of the permit is roughly \$275. Shipping containers exceeding 200 sq ft MUST stay clear of easements and drain fields, MUST be set on a firm, level surface, like concrete slabs or blocks, railroad ties, or compacted gravel pads AND have helical anchors embedded into the earth (24" minimum) on opposing corners of the container with straps mechanically attached to the container to resist uplift. (X2) helical anchors minimum. Maintain 6' of separation from all other structures. Follow the checklist below to apply.

Application Submittal Checklist:

- Building permit application, signed and dated, with a detailed description of the project.
- Site plan, depicting existing structures, proposed structures, septic/drainfield/well, and setbacks from property lines.
- E-mail digital submittals to mechanical@adacounty.id.gov

Additional Applications/Submittals May Be Required:

- If set in a Hillside or Floodplain location/overlay.
- For any modifications/attachments made to a stand-alone container.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.