

DISTRICT OF WEST VANCOUVER

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

760-16TH STREET, WEST VANCOUVER BC V7V 3S1

T: 604-925-7375 | F: 604-925-5911

firedepartment@westvancouver.ca



GUIDELINE SHIPPING CONTAINERS – REQUIREMENTS

Guidelines for shipping containers on any property in the District of West Vancouver.

Please refer to (if applicable):

- [DWV Dangerous Goods/Compressed Gas Guidelines](#)
- [DWV Hot Works Guidelines](#)
- [Street Occupancy Permit](#) (required if container is to be located on any portion of municipal property)
- Additional instructions by Fire Prevention Officer (if applicable)

Shipping container's markings:

- UN Placards for all stored Dangerous goods visible from two sides
- Contact name and emergency telephone number to be marked on container and visible from 10m
- The container and contents must be identified in the Fire Safety Plan and/or the Construction Fire Safety Plan

Container safety features in place prior to any use for storage:

- One ventilation opening within 150 mm of the floor in the container door primarily used for opening
- One ventilation opening within 150 mm from the top of the container on the opposite end from the doors for cross ventilation
- The high ventilation opening cannot be directly venting toward a structure
- Neither ventilation opening can be obstructed by stored materials at any time and must be kept clean of internal and external debris
- The additional ventilation openings must be constructed based upon the following minimums:
 - Two – 0.3 m X 0.3 m openings for containers 6m or less
 - Two – 0.5 m X 0.5 m openings for containers over 6m
 - Both openings will be covered by open grate wire mesh with greater than 50% free area
- Higher opening will also have a wind vent device, designed to generate a venturi effect during low wind speeds
- Where heavier than air flammable and combustible liquids are stored in the container a ventilation opening at low level should also be installed at the opposite end from the doors.
- Alternate engineered solutions will be considered.

NOTE: Standard existing environmental vents normally built into shipping containers ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE as ventilation openings for land-based storage applications. These were designed for air movement based upon atmospheric weather changes only and do not provide adequate air flow.