

## Sea Cans used for Storage

### **What is a Sea Can?**

Sea Cans (also called shipping containers, intermodal containers, or C-Cans) are weatherproof metal boxes made of corrugated steel meant to be used to transport goods on a ship, train, or truck. Their construction makes them secure from theft and weather, ideal for storage.

### **I have a shipment of materials coming to my property. It's only temporary, can I keep them in the sea can? Do I need to get a permit?**

We do not require a development or building permit for sea cans placed temporarily on your property. We consider the sea can 'temporarily' on your property if it there for 10 days or fewer. However, if there are any hazardous materials stored in the sea can, we ask that you notify the local fire department so they can be made aware of the risk. They may require a site visit to help you place the sea can in the safest location. They may also require a placard that states what's stored in the sea can, and who to contact in the case of an emergency.

You can contact the fire department at 403-934-3022.

### **I'd like to use a sea can for storage. Can I?**

It depends on what you would like to store. Long term storage of hazardous materials is strictly prohibited. This means no chainsaws, lawnmowers, gas containers, propane, etc.

Anything else can be stored in the sea can. You will need to apply for a development and building permit. When you submit a development permit application you will need to include a site plan that shows the sea can is at least:

- 3 metres from another building/structure.
- 6 metres from the exits, windows, and unprotected openings of another building/structure.
- 15 metres from a parking area.

Sea cans used for storage must have vents installed. The vents must meet the following regulations:

- One vent must be within 150mm of the floor, in the sea can door
- One vent must be within 150mm from the top of the sea can, on the opposite side.
- The top vent cannot vent towards a structure.
- The vents must remain unobstructed and kept clean of internal and external debris.
- Sea cans 6 metres long or less require two 0.3m x 0.3m vents
- Sea cans over 6 metres long require two 0.5m x 0.5m vents.
  - o Alternative engineered solutions for ventilation and explosion protection will be considered.

Sea cans cannot be placed on properties adjacent to a residential property.

Part of the development permit process includes a site visit by the fire department to inspect the proposed location for the sea can. They will discuss any concerns or recommended changes with you.

Once you have obtained a development permit, your building permit application will be processed.

**Why do we need to install vents? That defeats the purpose of using a sea can.**

We are planning for worst case scenario. The aspects of sea cans that make them so attractive for storage, also make them the most dangerous. The very limited ventilation they have could result in a catastrophic failure if they are involved or adjacent to a fire. There have been several incidents involving sea cans that have resulted in serious injury and death. By making larger vent openings, more air will be able to circulate in the sea can, cooling it down, and decreasing the internal pressure. It will also allow smoke to escape, providing a visual cue that something is not right.

If you have further questions regarding sea cans, you can reach out to the Planning and Development Department at [development@strathmore.ca](mailto:development@strathmore.ca) or 403-934-3133.

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