



Building a storage shed in Des Moines

The purpose of the following regulations is to meet both aesthetic and safety needs of the community by establishing standards for the location and construction of storage sheds.

Location: Storage sheds are permitted in the rear yard and must be at least 5 feet from the side and rear property lines and at least 3 feet from the house. Storage sheds are not permitted in the front yard and are not permitted in the side yard abutting a street.

Size: The maximum size of a storage shed is 120 square feet (if the building exceeds 120 square feet, a building permit is required so it should be treated as if it were a new detached garage). The maximum ground floor area of all accessory buildings, including sheds and any detached garages, is limited to 20% of the rear yard.

Height: The maximum height of a storage shed is 17 feet measured from the peak of the roof.

Constructing the Shed: Storage sheds less than 120 square feet must be securely anchored to the ground or to a concrete slab. Storage sheds over 120 square feet must be placed on and anchored to a concrete slab or concrete footings. A building permit is required for the concrete slab or footings and an inspection is required prior to pouring the concrete. The property pins must be visible at the time of the inspection.

Please call the Permit and Development Center at (515) 283-4200 with questions.

