

This factsheet provides general information on the use of shipping containers in the Hinchinbrook Shire.

What is a shipping container?

A shipping container is designed to be used to pack and transport goods by truck, rail or boat to destinations all over the world. Due to the availability of shipping containers, they are now getting used for other applications such as storage sheds, modular homes or even swimming pools.

*Do I require approval to have a shipping container on private property for **short-term** use?*

You may place a shipping container on your property or construction site as a short-term solution for storage when moving house or building, subject to Council approval.

An approval from Council must be obtained prior to the placement of the structure on the subject land.

Council generally grants approval for the placement of shipping containers onsite in the following circumstances:

- The shipping container is in place for less than:
 - 30 days for a property in the general residential zone, centre zone and mixed use zone; or
 - 60 days for a property not in the general residential zone; and
- The shipping container is not likely to cause:
 - A detrimental impact on the amenity of the area;
 - Obstruction to pedestrian or vehicular traffic;
 - Obstruction of a view or vista from any premises;
 - Harm to human health or safety; or
 - Environmental harm.

*How do I apply to have a shipping container on private property for **short-term** use?*

Prior to placing the structure on the land, you will need to submit a written request to Council for consideration. The request should include:

1. The relevant property address, or lot and plan;
2. A Site Plan which identifies:
 - a. the proposed location of the structure onsite;
 - b. dimensions;
 - c. distances to boundaries; and
 - d. distances to surrounding structures (existing or proposed);
3. An Elevations Plan which identifies the peak height of the structure;

4. The proposed timeframe the structure is to remain onsite; and
5. The intention or purpose of the structure being onsite.

Following submission of the written request, Council Officers will assess the information provided to determine if, and for what period of time, a temporary approval can be granted.

*Do I require approval to have a shipping container on private property for **long-term** use?*

If you are planning to use your shipping container as a long-term solution or modular building, you will need a building development approval.

*How do I apply to have a shipping container on private property for **long-term** use?*

A licensed private certifier is the best person to get the process started. The easiest way to find a licensed contractor is to use the Queensland Building and Construction Commissions (QBCC) free "Find a local contractor" online search. Please refer to the QBCC website, *Choosing a contractor* page.

The private certifier will lodge the application and get approval from Council on your behalf.

What will the licensed building certifier require?

Documentation and information required is dependent on the Building Certifier you engage. It is recommended you liaise directly with your contracted certifier to determine their relevant requirements.

For most projects, the Building Certifier will need to see plans of your property showing where you intend to put the container and the engineering information about the container you purchased.

Shipping containers without relevant approval

Should you be found to have a shipping container on your property without relevant approval, Council will proceed with relevant enforcement actions, which may result in fines being issued.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions, or require further assistance, please contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 4776 4600 or email council@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au.