

NEW: Color Options for Sidewalk Sheds and Fences

Sidewalk sheds and solid construction/demolition fences have new color options specified in Local Law 47 of 2025 (LL47), which took effect on August 15, 2025.

Sidewalk sheds and solid construction/demolition fences for which construction documents were submitted before August 15, 2025, and were in compliance with the color requirements of the Building Code, will not have to take any action as those colors remain acceptable under LL47. However, previously existing sheds and fences may be repainted or otherwise modified to utilize new color options authorized by LL47.

Background

Section 3307.6.4.11 of the New York City Building Code, and Section 3307.7.9 of the New York City Building Code, previously required sidewalk sheds and solid construction/demolition fences, respectively, to be hunter green, with an allowance for certain sheds and fences to be white.

LL47 amends these sections to authorize new color options that may be used by all sidewalk sheds and solid construction/demolition fences.

Acceptable Colors

Acceptable colors are hunter green, metallic gray, or white. In addition, for a sidewalk shed or solid construction/demolition fence installed at an existing building, other than one undergoing a full demolition or a **“big alteration”** subject to the provisions of Section 28-101.4.5 of the Administrative Code, acceptable colors also include ones that match the façade, trim, or cornice of the building, or match the roof of the building if the roof is sloped and visible from the street.

Color Application

The color does not have to be painted. Treatments that directly apply an acceptable color without paint are also acceptable.

For a sidewalk shed, the color must be applied to parapet frames and braces, parapet panels, legs and vertical members of the shed, beams, cross bracing, and metallic elements of a sidewalk shed. This includes the sides and backs of such elements.

For a solid construction/demolition fence, the color must be applied to publicly visible portions of the fence. This includes solid gates and doors in the fence.

Color Uniformity

The sidewalk shed must be one uniform color. However, metallic elements of the shed, such as legs and cross bracing, may be metallic gray even if the rest of the shed is a different color. Parapet mesh may be black in color even if the rest of the shed is a different color.

The solid construction/demolition fence must be one uniform color.

Where a sidewalk shed and a solid construction/demolition fence are installed at a site, the shed and fence must be the same color. Where a sidewalk shed utilizes metallic grey for its metallic elements, and a different acceptable color for the rest of the shed, the solid construction/demolition fence installed at the site may either be metallic grey in color or match the other acceptable color utilized for the rest of the shed.

Black may not be utilized as a color in a sidewalk shed or solid construction/demolition fence simply because the sidewalk shed utilizes a black parapet mesh. Black may only be utilized where the shed or fence is authorized to match the color of a building element, and one of those elements is black in color.

Artwork

The color requirements do not apply to sheds and fences, or portions thereof, where artwork has been installed in accordance with Section 3307.11 of the New York City Building Code.

Signage

The color requirements do not apply to signage installed in accordance with Section 3301.9 of the New York City Building Code.