

SELF-STORAGE FACILITY DESIGN STANDARDS TOWN OF GRAY MAINE

*Addendum to Zoning Ordinance, 402.8.11,
adopted by Town Council Oct. 17, 2023/Effective Nov. 16, 2023*

INTRODUCTION

These design standards apply to all self-storage facilities, as defined in the Town of Gray Land Use Ordinance.

PURPOSE

The Town has set these standards in response to increased interest in development of self-storage facilities, both within the Town and in surrounding towns. This use has historically seen the installation of multiple long, single-story metal buildings, which can be visually monotonous and unattractive, detracting from the community's desired image. Variations in roofline elements and façade treatments are proposed herein to break up the scale of such buildings and add visual interest.

These standards seek to promote an aesthetically pleasing appearance for self-storage facilities, in the interest of retaining Gray's rural character, and protecting property values within the town and specifically within the districts in which the self-storage use is conditionally permitted.

Photographs and captions included herein are meant to provide visualizations of the intended design effect.

APPLICABILITY

These standards apply to all developments defined as a "self-storage facility" use per the Gray Zoning Ordinance, presented to town staff, Staff Review Committee or Planning Board as of the effective date of these standards, and are meant to supplement the existing standards of the Gray Zoning Ordinance.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

The architectural design elements outlined below are options that can be combined to meet the stated purpose of improving the appearance of self-storage facilities, particularly by breaking up long, monotonous facades.

Materials: The Town recognizes that many self-storage facilities are metal buildings with metal roofs. For complementary architectural design elements to such buildings, such as the façade treatments listed below, a traditional Northern New England appearance is preferred, such as brick, clapboard and shingles. Contemporary materials with similar appearance, such as veneers, composites, vinyl and dyed concrete can be used to achieve this end on all or part of metal buildings.

Roofs: Pitched roofs are required, with a minimal pitch of at least 5/12. Buildings with projecting rooflines should be designed to create strong patterns of shade and shadow.

Façade treatments: Blank, unadorned or unscreened walls facing public roads, residential neighborhoods, or the front or side of abutting properties should be avoided. In addition to landscape buffering, façade treatments such as those listed below should be added to provide depth and visual interest on extended walls.

- wall plane projections and recesses,
- roof elevation variations,
- Faux windows, with or without shutters
- Decorative lighting
- Exterior artwork (i.e., building murals)
- canopies
- variations in siding materials and orientations, such as patterns or a combination of vertical and horizontal siding
- wainscoting
- awnings
- decorative dormers



Clockwise from top: Brick façade; pitched roof with appropriate colors and stone wainscoting; decorative canopy; faux windows with stone brick façade; overhang canopy; dormer.

Buffering: The reviewing authority shall have the ability to require buffering and screening of self-storage facility building(s) sufficient to minimize the impact on abutting properties and any publicly maintained road from which the development is visible.

These buffers/screens can include, but are not limited to: plantings, hedges, fencing, berms, walling, and combinations thereof.

New plantings must be tolerant species of sufficient height and blend with existing vegetation, which should also be retained as buffering whenever possible. Long term, plantings must be maintained or replaced to continue to serve as buffers. Fencing should be in colors compatible with the building and with the rural image of the town.

Colors: Building colors should be compatible with surrounding properties, to include earth tones and neutral colors, compatible with traditional New England construction. Roof colors shall be those commonly found on residential buildings, including but not limited to brown, black, gray and green, and shall be of a dark hue.

Lighting: All building and site lighting must be directed downward to minimize light pollution. Lights should be aimed and shielded to avoid any light directed onto the road, sidewalks or abutting properties. Lights should be directed only onto the building or the site. Light fixtures should be considered to highlight design elements as well as illuminate entry points and improve site security.

Solar Panels: Fixed solar panels that are flush-mounted to the roof and/or walls, not more than 8 (eight) inches above the roof plane and/or walls of a self-storage facility building are permitted, provided that they do not significantly change the orientation/appearance of the roofline and the necessary permits are obtained. Panels that are installed at a different orientation than the roof plane, or installed/angled to be more than 8 (eight) inches above the roof plane require Planning Board review and approval with the intent of maximizing compliance with design standards.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

The Planning Board shall administer these standards as part of the site plan review process for a self-storage development, per Article 10 of the Gray Zoning Ordinance. Appeals of the Planning Board's decisions are to be made according to the provisions of site plan review, 402.10.17.