

Article VI: Parking, Driveways, and Loading

Division 50 Parking Requirements

Section 50.01 General

The provision of adequate off-street parking is a vital part of the functional design of any area. In addition, the aspect of safety for both pedestrians and motorists is a primary consideration in the application of this Division. Specific requirements for the provision of off-street parking and loading shall be provided under this Division.

Section 50.02 Application of Regulations

- A. The requirements will be enforceable at the time of the erection of any building and/or at the time any principal building is enlarged or increased in capacity (through the addition of dwelling units, guest rooms, seats, or floor area
- B. The requirements will be enforceable before the conversion from one type of use and/or occupancy to another use or occupancy. If a change in use causes an increase in the required number of off-street parking, stacking or loading spaces, such additional spaces shall be provided in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance; except that if the change in use would require an increase of less than five percent (5%) in the required number of parking spaces, no additional off-street parking shall be required.
- C. All parking spaces required by this division shall be a minimum of 200 square feet in area with a minimum width of ten (10) feet. Handicap spaces shall be provided according to the requirements set forth in the North Carolina State Building Codes, Volume I-C.
- D. Parking spaces may be provided in a parking garage or a properly graded and surfaced open space.
- E. No spaces that are rented, except as provided in 50.06, or are located on a public right-of-way may be counted toward compliance with this division.
- F. All parking, stacking and loading facilities shall be permanently maintained by the owners or occupants as long as the use they serve exists.
- G. All parking, stacking and loading facilities shall have vehicular access to a public street or approved private street.
- H. Land used to provide required parking, stacking, and loading shall not be used for any other purposes, except for temporary events. If such land is devoted to any other purpose, the Certificate of Occupancy of the affected principal use shall immediately become void.
- I. The construction or modification to (i) open parking lots containing 1,500 or more spaces or (ii) parking decks and garages containing 750 or more spaces shall comply with the concentrated air emissions standards of the NC Division of Environmental Management.

Section 50.03 Special Parking Requirements

- A. Residential Districts: Permissible non-residential uses within residential district, where there are parking spaces for more than eight (8) cars, are required to comply with the following:
1. The lot may be used only for parking and not for any type of loading, unloading, business sales, dead storage, repair work, dismantling or servicing.
 2. All entrances, exits, barricades at sidewalks, and drainage plans shall be acceptable per the subdivision regulations of the Town.
 3. A strip five (5) feet wide shall be reserved as open space adjoining any street line of any lot zoned for residential use and shall be guarded with wheel bumpers and planted grass and/or shrubs, according to the buffer yard requirements of this Ordinance.

Section 50.04 Certification

Each application for a zoning permit for a commercial, industrial, institutional, or multi-family residential unit submitted to the Zoning Administrator shall identify the location and dimensions of off-street parking spaces and driveways in accordance with the requirements of this Division.

Section 50.05 Combination of Required Parking Space

- A. The required parking spaces for any number of separate uses may be combined in one lot, but the required space assigned to one use may not be assigned to another use except as provided in subsection (B) below.
- B. One-half of the parking spaces required for churches, theaters, or assembly halls, whose peak attendance will be at night or on Sundays, may arrange to use such spaces on adjacent property provided the use on said adjacent property will be closed at night and on Sundays, whichever is applicable, with the permission of the adjacent property owner.

Section 50.06 Remote Parking Space

- A. If off-street parking spaces required by this section cannot be reasonably provided on the same lot on which the principal use is located, such spaces may be provided on any land within 400 feet of the main entrance to such principal use provided the land is in the same ownership as the principal use or secured by a long term lease arrangement, which shall be renewable for as long as the requirement for the off-street parking of the principal use exists.
- B. Land described in subsection (A) above shall be used for no other purpose.
- C. When adequate provisions for parking space (meeting the requirements of this Article) have been made for the principal use on its lot, the requirements of subsections (A) and (B) above shall be inapplicable. (Note: In such cases, the applicant shall apply for a certificate of compliance for the principal use.)
- D. In cases of new construction, an applicant shall submit (with his application for a building permit and zoning permit) a document, duly executed and acknowledged, which subjects the off-site land to remote parking use in connection with the principal use for

which it is made available. (Note: The applicant shall deposit the appropriate filing fee and, upon the issuance of a zoning permit, the Zoning Administrator shall cause the document to be registered in the Office of the County Register of Deeds.)

Section 50.07 Number of Parking Spaces Required

- A. The minimum number of required off-site parking and stacking spaces is indicated in Table 50.07.
- B. Whenever the number of parking spaces required by Table 50.07 results in a requirement of a fractional space, any fraction of one-half or less may be disregarded while a fraction in excess of one-half shall be counted as one parking space.
- C. For any use not specifically listed in Table 50.07, the parking and stacking requirements shall be those of the most similar listed use, as determined by the Zoning Administrator.
- D. All developments in all zoning districts shall provide a sufficient number of parking spaces, in accordance with provisions of this article to accommodate the number of vehicles that ordinarily are likely to be attracted to the development in question.
- E. The Board of Commissioners and Planning Board recognizes that, due to the particularities of any given development, the inflexible application of the parking standards set forth in Table 50.07 may result in a development either with inadequate parking spaces or parking spaces far in excess of its needs. Therefore, the permit issuing authority may permit deviations from the requirements of Table 50.07 and may require more parking or allow less parking whenever it finds that such deviations are more likely to satisfy the general standard delineated in subsection (D). The permit issuing authority may allow deviations, for example, when it finds that a residential development is irrevocably oriented toward the elderly, disabled or other population that demonstrates a lesser parking need or when it finds that a business or service is primarily oriented to walk-in trade. Whenever the permit issuing authority allows or requires a deviation from the requirements of Table 50.07, it shall enter on the face of the permit the parking requirement that it imposes and the reasons for allowing or requiring the deviation.

Table 50.07 Off-Street Parking and Stacking Requirements	
Uses by Categories	Spaces Required
Residential Uses	
Bed & Breakfast	1 per bedroom plus 2 per 3 employees on the largest shift
Family Care Home	1 per 4 beds plus 1 per employee and visiting specialist plus 1 per vehicle used in the operation
Single-family Detached Dwelling and Class A Manufactured Homes on Individual Lots	2 per dwelling unit on the same lot.
Accessory Uses	
Accessory Dwelling Unit	1 per attached unit, 2 per detached unit
Home & Rural Family Occupations	1 per each non-resident employee
Recreational Uses	
Amusement Parks; Fair Grounds; Skating Rinks	1 per 200 square feet of activity area
Athletic Fields	25 per field
Auditorium; Stadium	1 per 5 persons based upon the design capacity of the building
Batting Cages; Golf Driving Ranges; Miniature Golf	1 per cage or tee
Tennis Courts	3 per court
Bowling Centers	4 per lane
Social or Fraternal Clubs; Physical Fitness Centers and Similar Indoor Recreation	1 per 200 square feet of gross floor area
Recreational Vehicle Park or Campground	See Section
Swimming Pools, Swim Clubs	1 per 100 square feet of water and deck space
Educational and Institutional Uses	
Ambulance Services; Fire Stations; Law Enforcement Stations	1 per employee on largest shift
Churches	1 per 4 seats in main chapel
Colleges or Universities	7 per classroom plus 1 per 4 beds in main campus dorms plus 1 per 250 square feet of office space plus 1 per 5 fixed seats in assembly halls and stadiums
Elementary and Middle Schools	3 per room used for offices plus 3 per classroom
Government Offices; Post Offices	1 per 150 square feet of public service area plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift
Libraries; Museums; Art Galleries	1 per 450 square feet of gross floor area for public use plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift

Uses by Categories	Spaces Required
Nursing and Convalescent Homes	1 per 4 beds plus 1 per employee and visiting specialist plus 1 per vehicle used in operation
Senior High Schools	3 per room used for offices plus 3 per classroom
Business, Professional, and Personal Services	
Automobile Repair Services	3 per service bay plus 1 per wrecker or service vehicle plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift
Banks and Financial Institutions	*1 per 200 square feet gross floor area plus stacking for 4 vehicles at each drive thru window or automatic teller machine
Barber and Beauty Shops	3 per operator
Equipment Rental and Leasing	1 per 200 square feet gross floor area
Funeral Homes; Crematorium	1 per 4 seats in main chapel plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift plus 1 per vehicle used in largest operation
Kennels or Pet Grooming	1 per 300 square feet of sales, grooming or customer waiting area plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift
Laboratories	*2 per 3 employees on largest shift plus 1 per 250 square feet of office space
Medical, Dental, or Related Offices	3 per examining room plus 1 per employee including doctors
Motion Picture Production	1 per 1000 square feet of gross floor area
Offices Otherwise Not Classified	1 per 250 square feet of gross floor area
Repair of Bulky Items (appliances, furniture, boats, etc.)	2 per 3 employees on largest shift plus 1 per vehicle used in operation
Theaters (Indoor)	1 per 4 seats
Vocational, Business, or Secretarial Schools	1 per 100 square feet of classroom space plus 1 per 250 square feet of office space
Services and Repairs not Otherwise Classified	1 per 250 square feet of gross floor area plus 1 per vehicle used in operation
Drive-throughs not Otherwise Classified	*Stacking for 4 vehicles at each bay, window, lane, ordering station or machine in addition to the use requirement
Retail Trade	
Convenience Stores	*1 per 200 square feet gross floor area plus 4 stacking spaces at pump islands
Department Stores; Food Stores	1 per 200 square feet gross floor area
Fuel Oil Sales	2 per 3 employees on largest shift plus 1 per vehicle used in operation

Uses by Categories	Spaces Required
Furniture; Floor Covering Sales	1 per 1000 square feet of gross floor area
Motor Vehicle, Motorcycle, or Recreational Vehicle Sales or Rental; Manufactured Home Sales	5Spaces plus 10,000 square feet of display area plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift
Restaurants	1 per 4 seats plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift & 11 total stacking spaces with minimum 5 spaces at or before ordering station
Retail Sales not Otherwise Classified	1 per 200 square feet of gross floor area
Retail Sales of Bulky Items (appliances, Building Materials, etc.)	1 per 500 square feet gross floor area
Service Station; Gasoline Sales	*3 per service bay plus 1 per wrecker or service vehicle plus 2 per 3 employees on largest shift plus 4 stacking spaces at pump islands
Wholesale Trade	
Market Showroom	1 per 1000 square feet of gross floor area
Wholesale Uses	2 per 3 employees on largest shift plus 1 per 200 square feet of retail sales or customer service area plus 1 per vehicle used in operation
Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	
Communications Towers; Demolition Debris Landfills; Utility Lines or Substations	No required parking
Self-Storage Warehouses	1 space per 5000 square feet devoted to storage
Transportation, Warehousing, Utility Uses Not Otherwise Classified	2 per 3 employees on the largest shift plus 1 per vehicle used in operation
Manufacturing and Industrial Uses	2 per 3 employees on largest shift plus 1 per 200 square feet of retail sales or customer service area plus 1 per vehicle used in the operation.
Other Uses	
Flea Markets; Other Open Air Sales	1 per 1000 square feet of lot area used for storage, sales, and display
Shopping Centers:	
< 250,000 square feet gross floor area	1 per 200 square feet gross floor area in main building(s) (excluding theaters) plus parking as required for outparcels or theaters
> 250,000 square feet gross floor area	1250 spaces plus 1 per 225 square feet gross floor area above 250,000 square feet
*NCDOT may require additional stacking spaces on state or federal highways	

Division 55 Driveways and Loading

Section 55.01 Driveway Requirements

The following requirements are applicable to all districts:

A. Commercial and Residential Districts:

1. No portion of any entrance driveway leading from a public street shall be closer than 20 feet to the corner of any intersection, measured along the right-of-way line from the intersection of the rights-of-way of the two streets.
2. The width of any driveway leading from a public street shall not exceed 30 feet at its intersection with the curb or street line.
3. No two driveways on a single lot leading from a public street shall be within 20 feet of each other measured along the right-of-way between the nearest approximate edges of the curb cuts for each, except for single-family and two-family residences.

B. Industrial Districts:

Centerlines of driveways leading to and from the same establishment shall not be closer than 75 feet.

Section 55.02 Off-Street Loading

The number of off-street loading berths required by this section shall be considered as the absolute minimum, and the developer should evaluate his/her own needs to determine if they are greater than the minimum specified by this section. For purposes of this section, an off-street loading berth shall have minimum dimensions of 13 feet by 25 feet, and 14 feet clearance with adequate means for ingress and egress in a forward motion.

- A. For a structure containing not more than 25,000 square feet of gross floor area, one berth shall be required.
- B. For a non-residential structure containing 25,000 or more square feet of gross floor area, the number of berths specified in the table below shall be provided.

Square Feet of Gross Floor Area	Required Number of Berths
25,000 to 79,999	2
80,000 to 127,999	3
128,000 to 191,999	4
192,000 to 255,999	5
256,000 to 319,999	6
320,000 to 400,000	7
Each 90,000 above 400,000	1