

Pilgrim Rentals' Guide to Shipping Container Site Preparation

How to prepare your site for a container rental from Pilgrim Rentals

At Pilgrim Rentals, we know that setting up a shipping container (for storage, onsite office use, or equipment staging) isn't just about placing the box—it's about making sure the location works effectively, safely, and cost-efficiently for your project. Below is a straightforward guide to preparing your site so your container rental goes smoothly.

1. Accessibility

Your container delivery always begins with the truck and trailer accessing the site. For Pilgrim Rentals, we ask you to check ahead of drop-off for the following:

- A clear path from the street or main access road to the container placement zone. Remove or relocate vehicles, equipment, debris, or temporary materials that might obstruct the delivery.
- At least approx. **120 feet of front-clearance** so the delivery vehicle can position itself, back in and drop the container with no unnecessary maneuvering.
- Confirm no "blind spots" (areas where the driver cannot see people or obstacles) and that the driver's line of sight is maintained throughout the approach and placement.

Make sure to walk the delivery path the day before (or earlier) and notify your Pilgrim Rentals rep of any concerns.

2. Clearance (Overhead & Surrounding)

It's essential to check both overhead and surrounding obstacles:

- Ensure **14 feet minimum overhead clearance** (or higher if required by your container size/trailer) so the delivery vehicle isn't impeded by tree limbs, building overhangs, wires or other obstructions.
- Confirm there's enough side clearance (both to approach and once the container is placed) to avoid damage and facilitate future pickup.
- If your site has power lines, overhangs or confined spaces, flag these to your Pilgrim Rentals coordinator — we'll help determine whether a smaller container or alternate

placement might be more appropriate.

3. Grade & Surface

While a container can be placed on a number of surfaces, some are better suited than others. Here's how Pilgrim Rentals recommends you prioritise:

- **Best surface:** level concrete or asphalt pad. Offers excellent stability, minimal shifting, and long-term durability.
- **Next best:** well-compacted gravel. Works very effectively when concrete isn't available but must be level and well-drained.
- **Acceptable:** firm, level dirt or grass, if properly prepared (compacted, free of large holes or soft spots).
- **Least desirable:** sand, un-compacted fill, or steep incline. If you must use these, we recommend installing support blocks or pads beneath the container feet to raise and stabilise it.

For long-term installations (weeks or months), ensure the surface has been prepped: remove vegetation, fill low spots, compact as needed, and confirm no risk of settling.

4. Drainage

Don't overlook water management—especially here in Georgia, where heavy rains, run-off and drainage issues can arise.

- Make sure the area where the container will sit has proper drainage so water doesn't pool underneath or at the door side. Poor drainage can lead to moisture seepage, floorboard rot, mold growth or damage to stored contents.
- If water tends to sit or the area is in a natural low spot, raise the container slightly using concrete or steel blocks (which Pilgrim Rentals can assist sourcing) to allow airflow and avoid direct contact with standing water.
- Consider directing roof runoff or nearby drainage flows away from the unit. Even a slight slope away from the container doors can prevent soggy conditions in front when accessing the unit.

5. Current Site Conditions & Future Changes

When you rent with Pilgrim Rentals, we ask you to think ahead about both the day-of delivery and what might happen over the life of the rental.

- On delivery day: ensure the site is fully clear of debris, parked vehicles, loose materials, or other equipment that might interfere with placement.
- During rental: if site conditions change (e.g., additional equipment is brought in, access roads shift, excavation begins nearby, or ground conditions degrade), notify your Pilgrim Rentals representative. We'll evaluate and make any necessary adjustments to ensure safety and continued access.
- At pickup: ensure continued clear access and communicate any changes that may affect removal. This helps ensure pickup is efficient and free from damage or delays.

Why choose Pilgrim Rentals for your container solutions?

- Local knowledge: As a Cleveland, GA-based business, Pilgrim Rentals understands local site challenges—soil conditions, drainage issues, site access quirks—that national chains may overlook.
- Responsive service: From delivery to pickup, our team is hands-on and ready to collaborate with you on site planning, logistics coordination and troubleshooting.
- Flexible solutions: Whether you need a short-term container for a jobsite project, a medium-term unit for inventory storage or a longer-haul staging solution, we'll help determine the right size, placement and preparation plan.
- End-to-end support: Beyond delivery, we'll help with ground support blocks, site prep recommendations and continued assistance if conditions change mid-rental.

Final checklist for Pilgrim Rentals clients

Before your scheduled container delivery:

- ☐ Deliver truck access is clear and unobstructed (120 ft front clearance)
- ☐ Overhead and side clearances confirmed (14 ft+)
- ☐ Placement surface level and stable (concrete/asphalt preferred)

- ☐ Drainage path verified—no pooling or soggy ground
- ☐ Site will remain accessible for rental duration (and for pickup)
- ☐ Your Pilgrim Rentals contact is aware of any site changes or special conditions

By taking these steps ahead of time, you'll streamline your container setup, reduce delays, and avoid potential onsite surprises. At Pilgrim Rentals, our goal is for your container rental to integrate seamlessly into your workflow—and for you to focus on the project, not worrying about delivery logistics.