

Container Shop FAQs

1. Which containers are available to rent at the Portal Container Village?

The Port has two rotating container shops located at The Portal Container Village, 296 W. Laurel St., Bellingham, WA that are available to rent from May – October.

Rotating Container Shop I (Bldg 7): power, lights, and Wifi included (nearest to the Portal entrance)

Rotating Container Shop II (Bldg 10): power, lights, Wifi, and water included (nearest to Zeeks Pizza)

2. For how long can I rent a container shop?

Reservations are for a duration of 13 days, beginning on a Tuesday and through the second Sunday. One-day rentals are not permitted. Unless otherwise indicated by Port staff, due to high demand, each vendor is limited to one container shop reservation each year.

3. What are the costs associated with renting a container shop?

June – September - \$150 for 13-day rental

May & October (shoulder season) - \$75 for 13-day rental

4. Is a damage deposit required?

Yes, a \$50 refundable damage deposit is required of all vendors.

5. What are the insurance requirements?

A certificate of liability insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 naming the Port as additionally insured is required for all renters.

6. Is there electricity in the container shops? If so, is it included in the rental cost?

Yes, there are standard 110-volt electrical outlets inside both container shops. Electricity is factored into the overall rental cost.

7. Are the container shops secured overnight to prevent theft?

The doors to both Container Shop I and Container Shop II auto lock when shut. Additionally, the Port has on-staff Security Specialists that patrol the site several times a day, 7 days a week, and security cameras that are installed throughout the site. Despite these security measures, vandalism and theft is always a risk. The Port does not guarantee the safety of vendor possessions and encourages vendors to remove valuables from the container shops overnight and/or to check with their insurance company to ensure adequate coverage of belongings.

8. Are there any displays, shelving, counters, and other fixtures in the space? Can I bring my own shelving and displays?

There is a plywood wall on the back wall of each container shop with peg board panels that can be used for hanging art or other displays. Bins of pegs are provided for your convenience as well as a service counter at the window.

You can affix shelves or displays to the interior or exterior of either container shop if it does not leave marks or damage the container. Strong magnets are highly recommended.

9. Does my rental come with garbage service? Also, what are the cleaning expectations?

A broom, dustpan, garbage bin, and trash bags are provided in each container shop. We kindly ask that you take your own garbage to the dumpster. Additionally, all vendors are responsible for cleaning and restoring the container to its original state at the conclusion of their reservation period.

10. Is affixing signage to the container permitted? If so, what are my options?

As with shelves and displays, signage may be affixed to the container as long as it does not leave marks or damage the container. Strong magnets are highly recommended. Two sandwich boards are available for vendors upon request (board dimensions – 36" x 24"). There is also a poster display case affixed to the side of both container shops that vendors may use to display their business information (case dimensions – 43" x 33").

11. Can I serve alcohol in the container shop during my rental period?

Alcohol service is not allowed in either container shop. We recommend directing customers and patrons to one of the several tenant businesses serving alcoholic beverages at the Portal Container Village – Kulshan Trackside, Bin 13, or the Rain or Shine Riviera Club.

12. Is there water in the shops?

Container Shop I does NOT have water. Container Shop II is the only container shop that has access to water.