

## What is self storage?

Self storage is the provision of storage space which is a part of a larger cargo container, rented on a monthly basis to the consumer. [Self storage](#) maybe used by individuals for storing household items and even by small companies for storage of excess inventory etc. The storage space also known as "units" are secured by the tenants own locking systems.

Possession of the storage space is in the hand of the tenant and the facility operator is not allowed possession or casual access to the contents of the units. A service provider can gain access to the unit through approaching the judiciary for a right of lien for non payment of rent under self storage laws. In the United States in 2007, there were around 52,000 storage facilities which were developed in a property ranging from three to seven acres. The storage facilities cover a total size roughly three times the size of the island of Manhattan.

In its infancy the self storage industry was considered the bottom of the real estate industry , though now it generates more than \$20 billion a year. These spaces which are windowless walled and lockable are available in many different sizes ranging from the size of a walk in closet to the size of a two car garage. The facilities which have control access generally employ state of the art security which includes security guards, cameras and individual door alarms as well. Some facilities also have electronic access through keypads or biometric thumbprints as well.

These containers might be climate controlled which would be compensated with a higher rent for belongings which require a specific temperature. One in ten families in the United States use self storage for extra storage for remodeling of your house or for a more general purpose. Items allowable in such units are non toxic, non hazardous and non perishable thus household items and vehicles such as motorcycles are allowed. The storage space cannot be utilized for living or sleeping in by the tenants.

If in a self storage the tenant refuses or cannot pay the rent for the storage space, the service provider can take possession of his belongings and auction them to recover the rent. These auctions are open to general public and are seen as an opportunity by many to buy cheap second hand merchandise.

In areas where space is not an issue facilities have a number of single storied buildings so that the ventilation is good and climate controlled storage spaces are not required. Climate controlled storage space is required to prevent mold, mildew or other moisture problems, as humidity control is required more than temperature control.

Sometimes public storage such as lockers on railways, clubs etc. is considered ancillary to the self storage industry though it is at a smaller level and serves a different purpose altogether.

## About the Author

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