



# Warehouse Storage

When storing your property, protection from theft or damage should be your primary concern. Whether you are storing household items or recreational goods such as boats, ATVs, RVs, or motorcycles, here are a few things to think about to help ensure your property stays safe.

## Licensed Public Warehouse Keepers (Wis. Stat. ch. 99)

In Wisconsin, persons who offer storage services are required to obtain a license as a Public Warehouse Keeper. Typical examples of this type of business include moving & transfer companies that hold your household belongings while you are between residences, or marinas and power sports dealers who store recreational products during the off season. The key distinction between these operators and Self-Storage Facilities (discussed below) is that the customer hands over the property to the operator to safely store in an area controlled by the operator.

Public Warehouse Keeper licensing requirements include:

- Operator must post a bond, liability insurance, or other security with the Department.
- Facility must be suitable for the type of storage operations conducted, and maintained and operated in a manner which will reasonably protect property.
- Facility is inspected by the Department.
- Operator must issue warehouse or storage receipts.

## Self-Storage Facilities (Wis. Stat. § 704.90)

A mini warehouse or self-service storage facility is a storage space rented to a tenant for the tenant's exclusive use. Unlike a Public Warehouse Keeper, the owner of a self-storage facility does not take possession of the customer's property.



## Tips to reduce risk of loss or damage

Whether you choose to do business with a Public Warehouse Keeper or a self-storage rental provider, here are some suggestions:

- Maintain insurance on your property.
- If doing business with a public warehouse keeper, avoid unlicensed operators.
- Make sure rental agreements or storage contracts are in writing and that you understand the terms and conditions.

## Liens and Defaults

If you fail to pay storage fees to a public warehouse keeper or rent to a self-storage operator, they are allowed to recover their losses by selling your goods.

*For more information or to file a complaint, visit our website or contact:*

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,  
Trade and Consumer Protection  
*Bureau of Consumer Protection*  
2811 Agriculture Drive, PO Box 8911  
Madison, WI 53718-8911

Email: [DATCPHotline@wi.gov](mailto:DATCPHotline@wi.gov)

Website: [datcp.wisconsin.gov](http://datcp.wisconsin.gov)

PHONE: (800) 422-7128 TTY: (608) 224-5058