



BEFORE PROJECT START

Permits & approvals

NYC • New Jersey • Philadelphia

Every city regulates a drone cleaning job a little differently. Here is what each market requires before work begins — SpiderJet coordinates and files it as part of project planning.

Requirement	New York City	New Jersey	Philadelphia
Drone takeoff & landing permit	REQUIRED NYPD and NYC DOT permit	NO STATE PERMIT Property-owner consent	NO CITY PERMIT Property-owner consent
FAA airspace authorization	LaGuardia, JFK and Newark Class B airspace	Near Newark, Teterboro, Morristown, Trenton and Atlantic City	PHL Class B and Northeast Philadelphia airspace
Street & sidewalk use	NYC DOT (OCMC) permit	Town, county or NJDOT permit	Streets Department street occupancy permit
Historic building review	Landmarks Preservation Commission	Local historic preservation commission	Philadelphia Historical Commission
Wash-water runoff	NYC DEP: kept out of storm drains	Town stormwater rules and local sewerage authority	Water Department, Industrial Waste Unit
Typical lead time	30+ days (NYPD permit)	Varies by town	Several weeks for street permits

New York City

- 1 NYPD drone takeoff & landing permit** ☐
Required for every takeoff and landing in the city. Reviewed by NYPD and NYC DOT and filed at least 30 days before the first flight.
- 2 FAA airspace authorization** ☐
Most of the city sits in LaGuardia, JFK and Newark Class B airspace, authorized per job through LAANC or FAA DroneZone.
- 3 Community notice** ☐
When the drone records video, affected community boards are notified and notices are posted near each takeoff and landing site.

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| 4 | NYC DOT sidewalk & curb permit | ☐ |
| <p>For the van, cones and barriers at the curb or on the sidewalk (Office of Construction Mitigation and Coordination).</p> | | |
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| 5 | Landmarks Preservation Commission | ☐ |
| <p>For designated landmarks and historic districts: approval of the cleaning method, usually with a test patch.</p> | | |
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| 6 | Wash-water containment | ☐ |
| <p>NYC DEP rules keep wash water out of storm drains, so runoff is captured for proper disposal.</p> | | |
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| 7 | Cleaning-product compliance | ☐ |
| <p>Mold and algae treatments that are registered pesticides follow NYS DEC applicator rules.</p> | | |
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| 8 | Property-owner authorization | ☐ |
| <p>Written access agreement for the roof, grounds and staging areas.</p> | | |

New Jersey

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| 1 | Property-owner authorization | ☐ |
| <p>Written permission to take off and land on the property. New Jersey has no statewide drone launch permit.</p> | | |
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| 2 | FAA airspace authorization | ☐ |
| <p>Near Newark, Teterboro, Morristown, Trenton, Atlantic City and Philadelphia airports, plus temporary flight restrictions such as Bedminster.</p> | | |
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| 3 | Street opening / obstruction permit | ☐ |
| <p>When the van or equipment occupies a town street or sidewalk. County roads go through the county engineer, state highways through NJDOT.</p> | | |
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| 4 | Local ordinance check | ☐ |
| <p>Each town's code is reviewed for launches from public property and quiet hours for night and weekend work.</p> | | |
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| 5 | Historic preservation commission | ☐ |
| <p>Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior work in local historic districts such as Jersey City, Hoboken and Newark.</p> | | |
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| 6 | Stormwater compliance | ☐ |
| <p>Town ordinances keep wash water out of storm drains, so runoff is captured and disposed of with the local sewerage authority.</p> | | |
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| 7 | Cleaning-product compliance | ☐ |
| <p>Registered mold and algae treatments follow NJDEP Pesticide Control Program rules.</p> | | |

Philadelphia

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| 1 | Property-owner authorization | ☐ |
| <p>Pennsylvania law bars cities from regulating drone flights, so there is no city drone permit. We launch from the client's property with written permission.</p> | | |

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FAA airspace authorization

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- Most of the city is under PHL Class B airspace and Northeast Philadelphia Airport has Class D. Stadium flight restrictions apply on game days.
- 3

Streets Department street occupancy permit

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- For equipment, sidewalk or lane closures through the Right-of-Way Unit. A police detail is required if a travel lane is closed.
- 4

Philadelphia Historical Commission

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- Masonry cleaning on designated buildings and in historic districts is reviewed, usually with an approved test sample.
- 5

Water Department approval

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- City code prohibits pollutants in storm inlets; sewer discharges need approval from PWD's Industrial Waste Unit.
- 6

Cleaning-product compliance

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- Registered mold and algae treatments follow Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture applicator rules.

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Requirements vary by site and change over time. SpiderJet confirms and files what your project needs during quote planning. General information, not legal advice. Last reviewed October 2026.