Giant Lock Box Publishes 2026 Container Size Guide Showing Buyers the Sticker Price Isn?t the Number That Matters

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Giant Lock Box, a family-operated shipping container dealer serving all 50 states from its Middletown, New York depot, today published a comprehensive 2026 sizing guide for container buyers ? and its central finding cuts against the instinct most first-time buyers bring to the purchase. The lowest sticker price in the yard is routinely the most expensive space in the yard, and the size decision, not the negotiation, is the single biggest cost lever a buyer controls.

The guide, Giant Lock Box?s 2026 container size comparison, compares the three sizes that account for the overwhelming majority of purchases ? the 20-foot standard, the 40-foot standard, and the 40-foot high cube ? on 2026 pricing, price per square foot, and the site-access requirements that decide what can actually be delivered.

The per-square-foot math is the guide?s headline finding. A used 20-foot container, averaging roughly $1,786 nationally per Container Sales Group?s 2026 pricing data, delivers about 160 square feet of floor ? roughly $11 per square foot, the most expensive space of the three common sizes. A used 40-foot standard delivers

double the floor space, about 320 square feet, for only 25% to 40% more money, working out to roughly $7 to $8 per square foot. Buyers who price a 20-foot unit, see the lower sticker, and stop looking are paying a premium for the small footprint without realizing it.

?The first question every buyer asks is ?how much?? The question that actually decides the bill is ?what size??? said a Giant Lock Box spokesperson. ?Double the room for well under double the money is a per-square-foot collapse, and most first-time buyers never run that math. But the spreadsheet doesn?t get the final vote ? the site does. A 20-foot container on a site that works beats a 40-foot container that can?t be delivered.?

The guide gives equal weight to that delivery reality. A 40-foot unit requires roughly 100 feet of straight-line clearance for standard tilt-bed delivery, plus firm, level ground and overhead room clear of branches and power lines ? conditions plenty of residential and small-commercial sites can?t meet. The guide walks buyers through three site questions to answer before choosing a size: whether the truck can get there, whether the ground is firm and level, and what hangs overhead. Uneven ground, the company notes, can cost more in leveling and shimming than the container itself.

The analysis also addresses the fastest-growing size in the category: the 40-foot high cube, which stands 9 feet 6 inches tall against the standard 8 feet 6 inches. That extra foot has made high cubes the dominant choice for container offices, workshops, and home conversions ? after insulation, subfloor, HVAC, and lighting are installed, a standard container?s interior can drop toward seven feet, while a high cube keeps a comfortable 8-foot ceiling. The premium is modest: often $200 to $500 over a comparable standard unit at base pickup, or 10% to 20% at used-retail level, with used 40-foot high cubes running roughly $2,200 to $3,800 per Container Management?s 2026 cost guide.

The timing favors buyers. Drewry?s World Container Index sat at $4,547 per 40-foot unit on July 16, down 2% on the week, signaling that the ocean-freight volatility of the past two years has cooled. Used inventory nationwide is in good supply and expected to stay that way through mid-year, keeping resale pricing flat ? while tariffs on Chinese-manufactured containers continue to pressure new one-trip pricing, which runs $2,500 to $5,000 for a new 20-foot and $4,000 to $7,000 for a new 40-foot high cube. Used units, built and depreciated years ago, are insulated from that pressure.

Giant Lock Box publishes its container pricing, condition grading standards, and delivery requirements openly on its website, and its placement experts walk buyers through site assessment by phone before any unit is dispatched ? a step the company credits with eliminating the failed deliveries common in the industry. Written quotes are available for buyers weighing sizes against their site and budget.

About Giant Lock Box

Giant Lock Box is a family-operated shipping container sales, rental, and modification company headquartered at 71 Dolson Ave in Middletown, New York. The company sells new and used containers in all 50 states, operates its own tilt-bed delivery fleet across the Northeast, and specializes in precise container placement on difficult sites. Placement experts are available Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. ET.

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Giant LockBox

Giant LockBox is a family-operated shipping container depot delivering and placing containers where customers need them, with honest grading, upfront delivery costs, and expert placement support across all 50 states.

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