

SIGN INSTALLATION & PERMIT

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PERMITS ARE NOT TRANSFERABLE OR REFUNDABLE



SIGNS AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

1800 PURPOSE

This section provides standards for the placement, display and use of signs. These standards are designed to enhance the aesthetic environment of the Township, improve pedestrian and traffic safety, and minimize possible adverse effects of signs on nearby public and private property.

1801 **DEFINITIONS**

Abandoned Sign: A sign or sign structure which no longer identifies or advertises a business, service, owner, product, or activity. Such sign and sign structure shall be removed within thirty (30)days of notice to the property owner by the Zoning Inspector.

Animated Sign: A sign or display manifesting either kinetic or illusionary motion occasioned by natural, manual, mechanical, electrical, or other means of power.

Area Identification Sign: A sign which identifies a subdivision or complex, whether residential, commercial, or industrial

Awning/Canopy Sign: A sign attached to an awning covering a doorway, window, or face of the building.

Banner: A temporary display including a sign on a flag, strip of lightweight material, paper, cloth, or fabric which is attached to a building, another sign, or any other structure.

Billboard: (See Off-Premise Sign)

Building Face Or Wall: All window and wall area of a building in one plane or elevation.

Changeable Copy Sign: A sign or portion thereof with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged without altering the underlying face or the surface of the sign.

Clearance Of Sign: The smallest vertical distance between the grade of the adjacent street, highway, or street curb and the lowest point of any sign, including its framework extending over that grade.

Commercial Message: Any wording, logo, or other visual representation that directly or indirectly identifies, advertises, or calls attention to a business, product, service, or other commercial activity.

Construction Sign: A temporary sign identifying an architect, contractor, subcontractor, and/or material supplier participating in construction on the property on which the sign is located.

Copy: The graphic content of a sign surface in either permanent or removable letter, pictographic, symbolic (logo), or alphabetic form.

Directional Sign: An on-premise sign not exceeding four (4) square feet per face and the highest edge of which is no higher than three (3') feet above curb grade, that gives directions or instructions to facilitate traffic flow. Such signs shall not contain the business name or logo. Directional signs are not included in the sign area calculations; however, a sign permit is required.

Double-Faced Sign: A sign with two (2) faces.

Embellishment The decorative or ornamental structure or frame that contains a sign. Embellishments are not included in the square footage of the sign's area calculation, shall not exceed twenty-five (25%) percent of the single face area and shall not exceed the maximum permitted height.



Exempted Signs: Exempted from sign permit requirements.

Façade: The entire building front including the parapet.

Frontage, Building: The length of the outside building wall along a right-of-way.

Future Development Sign: A temporary sign indicating the future construction or development of a building or area but not fitting under the definition of "construction sign".

Height: The vertical distance measured from the highest point of the sign, excluding decorative embellishments, to the grade of the adjacent street or the surface grade beneath the sign, whichever is less.

Low Profile Sign: A sign placed directly on the ground with maximum height not to exceed five (5') feet measured from adjacent ground surface.

Message: The wording or copy on a sign.

Non-conforming Sign: A sign which was placed on the lot legally, but which does not comply with subsequently enacted sign regulations.

Off-Premise Sign (also Billboard): A sign structure advertising an establishment, merchandise, service, or entertainment, which is not sold, produced, manufactured, or furnished on the lot on which said sign is located.

Pennant: Any lightweight plastic, fabric, or any other material, whether or not containing a message of any kind, suspended from a rope, wire, or string, usually in series, designed to move in the wind.

Pole Sign: Any sign supported by upright structure(s) or support(s) that are anchored in the ground and that are independent from any building or other structure on the lot.

Portable Sign: Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, or a sign designed to be transported including, but not limited to: signs designed to be transported by wheels; "A" or "T" frame signs; menu and sandwich board signs; umbrellas used for advertising; and signs attached to or painted on vehicles parked and visible from the public right-of-way, unless said vehicle is used regularly in the usual and customary operations of the business and other than a structure on which to place a sign.

Political Sign: A temporary sign used in connection with a local, state, or national election.

Projecting Sign: A sign, other than a flat wall sign, which is attached to and projects from a building wall or other structure not specifically designed to support the sign.

Public Service Information Sign: Any sign primarily to display items of general interest to the community such as time, temperature, and date. Public service information signs may be permitted in Commercial and Industrial Districts only, and are not included in the sign area allowed for the lot.

Real Estate Sign: A temporary sign advertising the real estate upon which the sign is located as being for rent, lease, or sale.

Roof Sign: Any sign erected and constructed wholly on and over the roof of a building, supported by the roof structure.

Sign: Any device, fixture, placard, or structure that uses any color, form, graphic, illumination, symbol, or writing to advertise, announce, or identify a person, entity, product, service, establishment, activity or sale which communicate information of any kind.



Sign Area: The area of the largest single face of the sign where the copy is placed, but excluding the necessary supports and frame on which the sign may be placed.

Sign Face: The sign area of which copy is placed.

Sign Structure: Any structure which supports, has supported, or is capable of supporting a sign, including decorative cover.

Temporary Sign: Any portable sign, flag, pennant, banner, balloon, garage sale sign, search light, twirling light, sandwich board, inflatable figures, or public election and candidate sign that is used temporarily or is not permanently mounted.

Wall Sign: A sign attached to or placed against a wall of a building, with the sign face parallel to the building wall and extending away from the building wall not more than one (1') foot therefrom, which copy advertises the use carried on within such building.

Window Sign: Any sign, pictures, symbol, or combination thereof, designed to communicate information about an activity, business, commodity, event, sale, or service, that is placed inside a window.

1802 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Unless otherwise provided by this Resolution, all new signs shall require a Zoning Certificate. Application for a Zoning Certificate shall be made to the Zoning Inspector. Payment of fees shall be in accordance with the fee schedule. No Zoning Certificate is required for the maintenance of a sign or for a change of copy on painted, printed, or changeable copy signs, so long as the sign area or structure is not modified in any way for the existing business.
- **B.** Each application for a sign permit shall include a drawing of the proposed sign showing the following information:
 - 1. Name and address of the owner of the sign.
 - 2. Street address or location of the property on which the sign is to be located, along with the name and address of the property owner.
 - **3.** The type of sign or sign structure as defined in this Resolution.
 - 4. A site plan with dimensions showing the proposed location of the sign with measurements from grade and from all property lines along with the location of all existing signs and buildings on the same premises, and adjacent roadways.
 - 5. A drawing of the proposed sign showing the following specifications: dimensions, height, design, copy, illumination, and construction details (materials, structural supports, and electrical components) of the proposed sign.
 - **6.** Computations showing total number and area of existing and proposed signs on the lot.
- C. No sign shall project into any right-of-way or obstruct traffic visibility at street or highway intersections.
- **D.** If a sign is installed, constructed, or maintained in violation of any of the terms of this Resolution, the Zoning Inspector shall notify the owner or lessee thereof to alter such sign so as to comply with this Resolution. Any owner, leasee, or sign contractor who installs a new sign without a Zoning Certificate shall be subject to three (3) times the normal fee schedule.



E. All signs that do not presently conform to this Resolution shall be removed within five (5) years and six months from the effective date of this Resolution unless a variance was granted for the sign prior to the adoption of this amendment.

1803 PROHIBITED SIGNS

The following types of signs are prohibited in all districts:

- **A.** Abandoned signs.
- **B.** Animated signs.

No sign shall be permitted which is animated by means of flashing, blinking, or traveling lights or any other means not providing constant illumination. Public service information signs and changeable copy signs are not considered animated signs.

- **C.** Temporary and Portable Signs.
 - Flags, pennants, banners, search lights, twirling signs, sandwich board signs, balloons, or other inflatable figures, except for the opening of a new business or re-opening of a seasonal business in a commercial or industrial district for a total period not to exceed thirty (30) days per year, after first obtaining a Zoning Certificate.
- **D.** Flags other than those of any nation, state, or political subdivision.
- **E.** Any sign or other object attracting attention to a business which interferes with the safety of the traveling public.
- F. Roof Signs.

1804 EXEMPTIONS

The following signs do not require a Zoning Certificate:

- A. Any public notice or warning required by a valid and applicable federal, state, or local law or regulation.
- **B.** Any sign wholly inside a building.
- C. Non-illuminated real estate signs not exceeding six (6) square feet in sign area for A/R or R-1 zoned property and thirty-two (32) square feet in sign area for all other districts, which advertises the sale, rental, or lease of the premises upon which such sign is located.
- **D.** Non-illuminated real estate signs not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet per face in sign area which advertise the sale or lease of a subdivision or undeveloped acreage of ten (10) acres or greater.
- E. Signs denoting the architect, engineer, developer, bank, title company or contractor when placed upon the lot under construction, and not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in sign area.
- **F.** Memorial signs or tablets, name of buildings and dates of construction, provided that such signs do not exceed two (2) square feet in sign area.
- **G.** Garage/yard sale signs, public election and candidate signs. These signs shall be removed no later than five (5) days after completion of the election, event or transaction.
- **H.** Address numbers for dwellings shall not exceed two (2) square feet in area and address numbers for commercial or industrial buildings shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area unless the address number is an integral component of a sign for which a Zoning Certificate is required by this Resolution.

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1805 AGRICULTURAL, RESIDENTIAL, AND PUBLIC/OPEN SPACE DISTRICTS Signs shall be permitted as follows:

- A. One (1) low-profile or one (1) wall sign shall be allowed for each lot which contains a main building. No commercial message shall be allowed on the sign, except for a commercial message drawing attention to an activity legally offered on the premises. Low-profile signs in A/R and R Districts shall not exceed forty-two (42") inches in height from adjacent street grade and 24 square feet in area per face with maximum of two (2) faces. Wall signs in an A/R and R District shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet in area. Signs for home occupations shall be non-illuminated and not exceed two (2) square feet in area.
- **B.** Signs for a church, school, or other public or semi-public building shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet per face in area.
- C. At any entrance to a residential subdivision or multi-family development there may be not more than two (2) signs identifying such subdivision or development and shall be setback from the right-of-way a minimum distance of ten (10) feet. The total sign area of a single sign located at a single entrance shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, shall not exceed forty-two (42") inches in height, and shall contain only the name of the subdivision or development. Any subdivision entrance/identification sign proposed to be located within the center of a boulevard entrance shall be located in a manner so as not to create a traffic hazard from the standpoint of adequate sight distances.
- **D.** All signs except traffic directional signs and real estate signs shall be located a minimum distance of twenty (20') feet from the right-of-way line and not less than twenty-five (25') feet from any adjacent lot line.

1806 COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

A. Maximum Total Square Footage.

The total square footage of all permanent sign faces shall be limited to a maximum of two (2) square feet for every lineal foot of street frontage not to exceed the maximum allowed in Table 17-1. One (1) of each sign type listed in Table 1, except as listed in 1707.13, shall be permitted per lot:

TABLE 1706 - 1

ZONING DISTRICT	TYPE OF SIGN PERMITTED	MAX. SIZE OF POLE SIGN (sq. ft.)	MAX. SIZE OF WALL SIGN (sq. ft.)	MAX. SIZE OF LOW PROFILE SIGN (sq. ft.)	MAX. SIZE OF PROJECTING SIGN (sq. ft.)
C-1	Wall, Low profile, projecting, pole	60 per face	10% of wall area	60 per face	40 per face
C-2	Wall, low profile projecting, pole	100 per face area	20% of wall	100 per face	40 per face
R-C	Wall, low profile,	100 per face	20% of wall	100 per face N/A	
M-1	Wall, low profile	N/A	10% of wall area	50 per face N/A	



- **A.** Exceptions to Table 17 1
 - 1. Lots fronting on two (2) or more streets are allowed the permitted sign area for each street frontage, but sign area may not be accumulated and used on one (1) street in excess of that allowed for lots with only one (1) street frontage.
 - 2. Lots fronting on two (2) or more streets are permitted multiple wall signs provided wall sign is facing a right-of-way and the combined square footage is within the wall sign size limit indicated.
 - 3. Awning and canopy signs are treated as wall signs for the purpose of this table. The sign area for these signs is the copy area.
 - 4. A low profile sign is <u>not</u> permitted when a pole sign is used.
 - 5. A projecting sign is <u>not</u> permitted when a pole sign is used.
- **B.** Height, Location and Vertical Clearance of Signs

The maximum height and minimum vertical clearance are measured from existing grade. The location is measured from the right-of-way line. All following dimensions are in feet and apply to pole signs in the Commercial, Recreational, and Industrial Districts, except as provided for:

Maximum Height 20*
Minimum Setback 20
Minimum Vertical Classes

Minimum Vertical Clearance 9*

1807 COMMON SIGNAGE PLANS FOR MULTIPLE USES

- **A.** In lieu of the requirements elsewhere in this chapter, when a structure contains more than one (1) business establishment, or when the owners of two (2) or more contiguous lots voluntarily agree to develop common signage, a common signage plan may be submitted.
- **B.** A common signage plan shall specify standards for consistency among all signs affected by the plan in regard to:
 - 1. Color scheme
 - 2. Lettering
 - 3. Lighting
 - 4. Location of signs
 - 5. Material and construction
 - 6. Sign Proportion/size
- **C.** Common signage plans may not exceed the following limitations:

<u>Maximum Sign Area:</u> The total maximum aggregate area of all signs (pole, wall, low profile or projecting) shall not exceed either three (3) square feet of signage per lineal foot of street frontage, or five (5) percent of the ground floor of the principal building, or one thousand (1,000) square feet, whichever is less.

1. <u>Maximum Number of Pole or Low Profile Signs:</u> Pole or low profile signs are limited to one (1) for each three hundred (300) feet of frontage.

^{*}Does not apply to low profile signs



1808 OFF-PREMISE SIGNS

Off-premise signs are permitted in districts zoned for industry and business and lands used for agricultural purposes per ORC 519.20, subject to the following:

- **A.** Off-premise signs shall be limited to billboards and poster panels.
- **B.** Billboards and poster panels shall not exceed seventy-two (72) square feet per sign face.
- C. Height of billboard and poster panels shall not exceed fifteen (15') feet above grade.
- **D.** One (1) off-premise sign per parcel is permitted.
- **E.** Off-premise signs are not permitted on parcels with on-premise signs.
- F. Billboards and/or poster panels shall be set back at least as far as the required front yard depth for a principal use in that district. No sign or advertising structure shall be no closer than fifty (50') feet of a side or rear lot line.