

Nearby Jurisdictions Content Neutral Temporary Sign Regulations

Fairfax County

- New section on minor signs, which were previously referred to as “temporary signs,” adopted in 2019 (Sec. 12-105, included below) as part of the new sign ordinance. Sign definitions (Sec. 12-102) provided at the end of this document.

12-105 Minor Signs

The following minor signs are allowed but cannot be illuminated, and, unless otherwise stated, do not require a sign permit:

1. Signs posted by or under the direction of any public or court officer in the performance of official duties, or by trustees under deeds of trust, deeds of assignment or other similar instruments. These signs must be removed no later than 10 days after the last day of the period for which they are displayed.
2. Signs that are displayed on a lot or property that is actively marketed for sale, rent or lease, as follows:
 - A. A single building-mounted or freestanding sign is allowed, except that 2 signs are permitted on a corner lot when each sign faces a different street frontage. Such sign(s) must be removed within 7 days of the settlement, rental or lease of the property.
 - B. Sign(s) located on a property developed with, or planned for development of, a single family detached or attached dwelling unit, cannot exceed 6 square feet in area and a height of 6 feet.
 - C. Sign(s) located on a property developed with, or planned for development of, a multiple family dwelling unit cannot exceed 12 square feet in area and a height of 8 feet.
 - D. Sign(s) located on a property developed with, or planned for development of, any nonresidential use, or on a residential property containing a minimum of 20 acres, cannot exceed 32 square feet in area and a height of 8 feet
3. Signs during active construction or alterations to residential, commercial, and industrial buildings are permitted, as follows:
 - A. For a new residential, commercial or industrial development, one sign per lot, not to exceed 60 square feet in area and a height of 10 feet. For lots containing multiple road frontages, one additional sign per street frontage is allowed, limited to 32 square feet in area and a height of 8 feet. No sign may be located closer than 5 feet to any lot line. All signs must be removed within 14 days following completion of the construction of the development, as determined by the Zoning Administrator, and no sign may be displayed for more than 2 years

from the date of the issuance of the first building permit for the development. If construction has not been completed within this timeframe and building permits are active for the development, a sign permit is required to allow the continued display of any sign.

- B. For an individual single family dwelling unit undergoing construction, improvement or renovation, one sign, not to exceed 4 square feet in area or a height of 4 feet is allowed. No sign can be displayed before commencement of the improvement or renovation work, and the sign must be removed within 7 days after the improvement or renovation is completed with all necessary inspections approved, or within 6 months, whichever is less.
- 4. Yard signs on any lot with a residential use cannot exceed 12 square feet in total area, with no single sign exceeding 4 square feet in area and a height of 4 feet.
 - 5. For non-residential uses, minor signs are permitted as follows:
 - A. For non-residential uses located on a lot with frontage on a major thoroughfare, building-mounted and freestanding minor signs are allowed, not to exceed 32 square feet in total sign area per lot. If freestanding, no more than 2 such signs are allowed per lot with a maximum height of 4 feet. (What is a major thoroughfare?)
 - B. For all other non-residential uses, building-mounted and freestanding minor signs are allowed, not to exceed 24 square feet in total area per lot. If freestanding, no more than 2 such signs are allowed per lot with a maximum height of 4 feet.
 - 6. Window signs for any non-residential use are allowed if the total of all signs at a given establishment does not cover more than 30 percent of the total area of the window in which the signs are located.
 - 7. For non-residential uses, a single A-frame sign not to exceed 16 square feet in area and a height of 4 feet, is allowed. The sign must be located within 25 feet of a building or designated site entrance that provides access to the use, and cannot impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

Town of Herndon

- Temporary sign regulations are addressed in Sec. 78-140.5.n., included below.

Sec. 78-140.5 – Sign license required.

(n) No sign license required for the following types of signs. A sign license is not required for:

(1) *Required or governmental signs.* Signs erected by a governmental body or required by law.

(2) *Flags.* Up to three flags no more than 16 square feet in size each and not containing any commercial advertising provided that the flags comply with [section 78-140.6\(e\)](#).

(3) *Changeable copy on licensed sign.* The changing of messages on changeable copy signs, when the change does not impact the sign colors, sizes, or general design of the sign face; and, the repair of an existing licensed sign. Repair of a nonconforming sign must comply with [section 78-140.7](#).

(4) *Official court notices.* Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed by or under the direction of any public or court officer in the performance of his official or directed duties; provided that all such signs shall be removed no more than ten days after their purpose has been accomplished.

(5) *Certain signs on single-family residential properties.* On single-family, residential properties signs conforming to the following provisions may be permitted without a sign license:

- a. One or more temporary signs noncommercial with a total area of no more than 12 square feet, and which are removed within 90 days after being erected, except signs associated with home-based businesses.
- b. One or more temporary noncommercial window signs, provided that the total extent of window signs do not obstruct more than 25 percent of any one window, and which are removed within 90 days after being erected, except signs associated with home-based businesses.
- c. One noncommercial wall sign or sign posted on a mailbox, no more than one square foot in size.

(6) *Certain signs on nonresidential properties.* On nonresidential properties signs conforming to the following provisions may be permitted without a sign license:

- a. Up to two minor signs per parcel.
- b. Permanent, non-internally illuminated, window signage, provided that the aggregate area of all window signs on each window does not exceed 25 percent of the total area of the window.
- c. Temporary, non-internally illuminated, window signage, provided that the aggregate area of all window signs on each window does not exceed 25 percent of the total area of the window, which are removed within 90 days after being erected.

d. One window-mounted neon sign, no more than two square feet, per ground floor business, except in the CC, PD-D, PD-TD, and PD-TOC zoning districts.

City of Falls Church

- Temporary signs addressed in exempt signs section of sign ordinance (Sec. 48-1241, included below).

Sec. 48-1241. - Exempt signs.

a) Certain signs and sign structures are allowed without a permit as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, provided they comply with the structural requirements of [section 48-1243](#). Such signs shall not count toward the allowable maximum sign area. No exempt sign shall be located closer than five feet of a property line or within a public right-of-way, except a sign erected by, authorized by or required by the city. The height of an exempt sign shall not exceed ten feet, except where greater heights are specified. No exempt sign shall be located where it impedes use of any door, window, fire escape, sidewalk, walkway, driveway or other vehicle use area.

b) Exempt signs shall include:

- (1) Artwork, including sculptures, murals, and the like, which is designed or intended primarily as a decorative feature.
- (2) Street addresses, not to exceed 1½ square feet in area.
- (3) One residential identification plaque, not to exceed 1½ square feet in area for each residential structure.
- (4) One professional or commercial identification plaque not exceeding 1½ square feet in area.
- (5) One building identification sign for each multistory building in the T, B, M, O-D districts, not exceeding ten square feet in area, designating only the structure or development name and/or address, and located in accordance with requirements for wall signs.
- (6) One "Private Property," "No Trespassing" or "Beware of Dog" sign, not exceeding 1½ square feet in area.
- (7) One temporary sale, rent, lease, build-to-suit sign, or sign announcing future construction, not exceeding six square feet in area in any R district, or 16 square feet in area in any other district. Such sign shall be removed within one week of occupancy of the property. One additional sign designated "Open"

shall be permitted during the period that such premises are actually open for viewing by the buying public. No such sign shall exceed six feet in height.

- (8) One exterior building directory, not exceeding six square feet in area, attached to a multiple-tenancy structure.
- (9) Up to three noncommercial temporary signs, not exceeding four feet in height nor four square feet in area for each sign, which signs shall be posted for no longer than 60 days in a calendar year. Yard sale signs shall not be considered commercial signs.
- (10) Signs erected by or required by the city for pedestrian safety, vehicular movement or to announce events sponsored by the city.
- (11) Signs regulating parking and vehicular movement, not exceeding five feet in height nor two square feet in area for each sign, and placed only where necessary. Signs required by [chapter 26](#), article V may exceed two square feet but shall not exceed four square feet.
- (12) Up to three flags, on poles not to exceed 60 feet in height, representing any government or governmental agency or any charitable, civic, fraternal, patriotic, religious or similar organization.
- (13) Historic markers, in accordance with Code of Virginia, § 42-66.
- (14) Warning signs warning the public of danger, of such size as may be necessary.
- (15) Up to four "For Sale" or "For Rent" directional signs, which give directions to a property which is for sale or rent. Each such sign shall not exceed six square feet in area nor three feet in height and shall be made of weatherproof materials and shall be displayed only on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.
- (16) Gasoline stations.
 - a. Signs on vending machines.
 - b. Wall signs, not exceeding six square feet in area for each sign, identifying the special functions of various service bays in the building facade, and located above the doorways to the bays.
 - c. Signs on pump islands relating to self-service or full-service locations, prices, promotions, displays, fuel availability, and so forth; provided no such sign shall be located on or above any canopy that extends over the pump islands.
 - d. One state inspection sign and one emission inspection sign on each frontage, provided no single sign exceeds six square feet in area.

- e. One sign stating hours of operation, in the form of a wall sign or window sign, not exceeding four square feet in area.
 - f. Fuel price information signs, totaling up to 12 square feet in area, when integrated into a permitted freestanding sign or when attached to a permitted freestanding sign structure.
 - g. A single wall sign not exceeding 2½ square feet, identifying the owner or manager, the address of the property and the telephone number.
- (17) Temporary window signs. Signs made of paper, cardboard, cloth or similar material may be displayed in the ground floor windows of buildings in the B, M, and O-D districts, provided:
- a. The area of all such signs affixed to any one pane of glass shall not exceed 25 percent of the area of transparent glass on that pane.
 - b. The total area of such signs shall not exceed 50 percent of the maximum permitted wall sign area for that business.
- (18) Temporary development signs. Signs announcing the owner, occupant, developer, architect, contractor and other persons or firms involved in the construction of the premises, provided:
- a. Such signs shall not exceed ten feet in height.
 - b. The total area of such signs shall not exceed 16 square feet in R districts nor 32 square feet in other districts.
 - c. Such signs shall not be installed prior to approval of a site plan or receipt of a building permit and shall be removed as soon as construction is completed.
- (19) Other similar signs, as determined by the zoning administrator.
- (20) Flaps with lettering, logos, symbols or words no greater than 13 inches in height and which may extend over the public right-of-way and up to 15 feet in height.

Fairfax County Sign Definitions

12-102 Definitions

A-FRAME SIGN: A minor freestanding sign constructed to form a two-faced sign with supports that are connected at the top and separated at the base, forming an “A” shape.

FLAG: A single piece of cloth or similar material, shaped like a pennant, rectangle or square, attachable by one straight edge to a pole or attached at the top of a pole and draped. For purposes of this Ordinance, a minor sign is not a flag.

MINOR SIGN: Any sign that is (1) designed to be easily moved, (typically not permanently attached to a structure or the ground, and (3) is not illuminated. Such signs include, but are not

limited to, A-frame signs, banners, posters, window signs, yard signs or other moveable signs. For purposes of this Article, flags and vehicle signs are not minor signs.

MOVING OR WINDBLOWN SIGN: Any sign of which all or any part is in motion by natural or artificial means (including fluttering, rotating, undulating, swinging, oscillating) or by movement of the atmosphere. For purposes of this Ordinance, a flag is not a moving or windblown sign.

OFF-PREMISE SIGN: A sign that directs attention to a product, service, attraction, event, or the like that is being offered at a location that is not the premises on which the sign is located.

SIGN: Any device or structure, or part thereof, designed and used to attract attention to an institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means involving words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, logos, colors, illumination, or projected images, which is visible from any public or private street. For non-residential developments, this definition is not intended to include private streets or other privately maintained access ways that do not directly connect to a public street.

SIGN FACE: The part of a sign which is or can be used for visual representation or communication, including any background or surrounding material, panel, trim or ornamentation, color, and illumination that differentiates the sign from the building, structure, backdrop surface, or object upon or against which the sign is placed. The term does not include any portion of the support structure for the sign if no representation or message is placed or displayed on, or designed as part of, the support structure.

VEHICLE SIGN: Any sign that is painted, mounted, adhered, magnetically attached or otherwise permanently affixed to or incorporated into a vehicle or trailer, except for any signs not exceeding a total of 8 square feet for the entire vehicle or trailer and bumper stickers.

WINDOW SIGN: A minor sign that is (1) attached to the glass area of a window or placed behind the glass of a window, and (2) easily read from outside the building.

YARD SIGN: A minor sign associated with a residential use, which is attached to a structure or placed upon or supported by the ground independently of any other structure.