

ARTICLE 7. SIGNAGE

7.01. PURPOSE

The purpose of this article is to provide content-neutral sign standards and restrictions which allow for appropriate signage for agricultural, residential, public and institutional, commercial, and industrial activities while promoting signage that:

- A. Reduces intrusions and protects property values;
- B. Eliminates conflict between advertising signs and traffic control signs which would be hazardous to the safety of the motoring public or pedestrians.
- C. Provides reasonable, yet appropriate, conditions for signage by relating the size, type, and design of signs to the size and type of establishment.
- D. Promote desirable development and economic activity consistent with the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

7.02. APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this article shall apply to the display, construction, erection, alteration, use, location, and maintenance of all new and existing signs within the City of Frankfort and Franklin County.

7.03. GENERAL REGULATIONS

The following regulations shall apply to all permitted signs in the city and county:

- A. Signs must be constructed in compliance with any and all applicable regulations of the [City and County Building Code](#).
- B. No sign shall obstruct or interfere with traffic or traffic visibility or resemble or imitate signals erected by the City, County, or other governmental agency for the regulation of traffic or parking.
- C. No sign shall be permitted as the principal use on a premises. Signs shall only be permitted as an accessory use.
- D. Signs shall only be placed on the same lot as the use or building to which they are accessory, unless such sign is part of an approved development plan as established in this article.
- E. No sign, with the exception of signs for a political jurisdiction, shall be placed in the public right-of-way unless otherwise stated herein.
- F. No sign may project over any public street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way, except as expressly permitted in this article.
- G. No sign shall be permitted which is attached to, supported by, or part of a structure which is designed to move on wheels, skids, or other similar devices; or transported, pushed, or pulled by a motor vehicle.
- H. Signs that are externally illuminated, internally illuminated, or illuminated through downlighting shall meet the lighting requirements of [Article 8. Outdoor Lighting](#).

7.04. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER APPLICABLE CODES

All signs shall comply with applicable State laws, the Kentucky Building Code, the National Electric Code, and other relevant municipal codes. In the event of any inconsistency between the regulations in this article and the applicable building and/or electrical codes, the more stringent provisions shall apply.

7.05. SIGN PERMITS

- A. Applicability

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7.06. SIGN PACKAGE PLANS

1. No sign shall be constructed in the City of Frankfort or Franklin County without a permit issued by the appropriate municipality, except for those signs which are identified as authorized without a permit in [Section 7.07 \(Signs Exempt from Permitting\)](#).
2. Any maintenance or repair involving the removal and reinstallation, including structural repair or alteration, of all or any part of the sign support structure shall require a permit.

B. Application Submittal

All applications for permits shall include the following

1. A site plan and/or building elevation drawing, indicating the location of the proposed sign(s) on the lot and/or building, including setbacks and dimensions;
2. A drawing indicated the dimensions of the proposed sign, and all existing signs maintained on the premises;
3. Detailed sign information, including type of construction, method of illumination, dimensions, copy, method of mounting and/or erecting, and other similar information;
4. The written consent of the owner of the underlying real property or authorized agent; and
5. The required permit fees.

C. Permit Fees

A fee established by the City of Frankfort or the Franklin County Fiscal Court shall be submitted with the sign application. The permit fee shall relate to the cost of issuing the permit and may vary based on the size, type, and height of the sign.

D. Inspections

Any sign for which a permit is issued shall have a footer inspection, if applicable, and a final inspection prior to the issuance of a certificate of completion. If the on-site construction and/or installation of the sign has not commenced within six (6) months after issuance of the sign permit, the permit shall become null and void.

E. Signs in Special Districts

All nonexempt signs proposed within Special Districts shall comply with the respective Design Guidelines associated with that particular district if they exist.

7.06. SIGN PACKAGE PLANS

A. Purpose

In any zoning district, areas may exist with special or unusual circumstances or needs for compatibility. In such cases, an owner of property, or their authorized agent, may request the Planning Commission's review and approval of a Sign Package Plan.

B. Application

1. The Sign Package Plan shall establish the maximum size, the prototypical design, and the number of signs that will be allowed within the subject planned development.
2. The sign package plan shall include the following information:
 - a. Front building elevation(s), indicating lengths of individual storefronts, location(s) of signs, and the maximum sign area for each individual business sign.
 - b. Location of development identification sign, if any, indicating the setbacks, and maximum sign area for this sign.
 - c. Drawings, to scale, of all signs proposed for the Planned Unit Development, including area and dimensions (height, width, and projection).
 - d. Color Schemes and Designs for all Signs

- e. The types of structures that will be used to support each sign.

C. Planning Commission Review

1. The Planning Commission shall review and approve a Sign Package Plan, even if it deviates from the requirements of this article, if it is determined that the Sign Package Plan complies with the following:
 - a. The number, sizes, materials, and designs of the signs are properly related to the type and location of the use, the land area of the site, and the sizes, styles, and location of the building and other structures on the site.
 - b. The number, sizes, materials, and designs of the signs effectively communicate the uses to motorists and/or pedestrians.
 - c. The signs are consistent with the purposes of these Zoning Regulations.
 - d. The signs are appropriate to the development or architectural character of the building(s) in which the use is located and are compatible with existing adjacent uses.
2. After the Planning Commission has approved the Sign Package Plan, the Planning & Zoning Director shall be authorized to issue sign permits for businesses when the requested sign is in compliance with the approved Sign Package Plan. No permit for any sign shall be issued unless it is in compliance with the approved Sign Package Plan.
3. A use or development for which the Planning Commission has approved a Sign Package Plan may display only signs that comply with the approved plan.

D. Modifications to Approved Sign Package Plan

1. The Planning and Zoning Director may approve minor modifications to the approved Sign Package Plan. Minor modifications include only changes that do not:
 - a. Increase the area of the signs by more than five (5) percent;
 - b. Alter the relationship of the signs to neighboring property; or
 - c. Change the location of the signs in a manner as to increase nonconformity with setback requirements, interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic, interrupt architectural details, or otherwise significantly deviate from the plan approved by the Planning Commission.
2. Any modification that does not meet the above criteria outlined ([Section 7.06.D.1](#)) shall be considered a Major Modification and require Planning Commission review.

7.07. SIGNS EXEMPTED FROM PERMITTING

The following sign types are exempt from the requirements of obtaining a sign permit:

- A.** Signs not visible beyond the boundaries of the property upon which they are located.
- B.** Governmental signs that are placed by government officers in the performance of their professional / elected duties.
- C.** Temporary or permanent signs erected by public utility companies or construction companies in the performance of their professional duties.
- D.** Vehicle signage when painted directly on a vehicle or attached magnetically.
- E.** Temporary signage of 32 square feet or smaller placed:
 1. On or after April 15 and removed by the last day of May.
 2. On or after the first day of October and removed by November 15.

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7.08. PROHIBITED SIGNS

- F. Temporary signs for a new business for up to 30 consecutive days from the first day of business or upon installation of a permitted permanent sign. Exempt signage shall only be displayed on the property where the new business is located.

7.08. PROHIBITED SIGNS

- A. It shall be unlawful to erect, cause to be erected, maintain, or cause to be maintained, any sign not expressly authorized by, or exempted from, these zoning regulations.
- B. The following signs are expressly prohibited unless exempted by [Section 7.06. Exempt Signs](#) or expressly authorized elsewhere in this Article. Request of waivers shall not be allowed for any prohibited sign.
1. **Off-Site Signs**
 - a. Any sign that is not located on the same lot as the principal use or structure to which it is accessory, unless otherwise expressly permitted by this article.
 2. **Unsafe or Noncompliant Signs**
 - a. Any sign that has not been issued a permit and that is not expressly permitted under [Section 7.09. Permanent Sign Regulations](#) and [Section 7.10. Temporary Sign Regulations](#).
 - b. Any sign that is prohibited by State or Federal law.
 - c. Signs in violation of the adopted building code or electrical code.
 - d. Any sign in the professional opinion of the building inspector that is declared to be physically unsafe or unlawful by reason of physical condition and constitutes a safety hazard.
 - e. Abandoned signs, including those relating to a use that no longer exists, as defined in [Section 7.18.A. Abandoned Signs](#).
 3. **Obstructive or Hazardous Signs**
 - a. Signs that obstruct the view of pedestrians, cyclists, or motorists at intersections, driveways, or along rights-of-way.
 - b. Signs placed in a manner which interference with public wayfinding or safety systems.
 - c. Signs that interfere with the use of, or access to, fire escapes, emergency exits, windows, or rooftops.
 - d. Signs that block or interfere with street signs, traffic signals, or rail crossings.
 - e. Signs that produce glare or hinder visibility along public rights-of-way or access points.
 4. **Imitative Signs**
 - a. Signs that closely resemble official governmental signage in shape, color, size, or layout such that they could be mistaken for traffic control or safety devices.
 5. **Signs in Public Spaces**
 - a. Any sign, with the exception of signs for a political jurisdiction, that is located within, or projecting over, any public right-of-way without written authorization from the appropriate city or county authority or expressly permitted by this article.
 - b. Signs tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise affixed to trees, utility poles, or fences
 6. **Prohibited Placement and Structures**
 - a. Roof signs and roof-mounted signs, including any sign that extends above the eaves

of a pitched roof or above the parapet of a flat roof. Signs placed upon Mansard-Style roof parapets are not considered roof signs.

- b. Freestanding signs or structural components that overhang building surfaces or encroach into minimum required setbacks, unless otherwise permitted by this article.
- c. Signs painted, applied, or printed on curbs, sidewalks, pavements, retaining walls, or streets, except official markings permitted by the City or County.
- d. Signs shall only be placed on the same lot as the use or building to which they are accessory.

7. Temporary and Attention-Attracting Devices

- a. Use of streamers, pennants, spinners, tag signs, or similar devices unless part of a permitted temporary sign or event display.
- b. Digital, dynamic, or electronic changeable sign unless specifically permitted hereafter.
- c. Human signs, including those that may be worn as a costume or held or manipulated by a human.

8. Signs with Motion, Sound, or Emission

- a. Signs with visible motion including flashing, blinking, rotating, scrolling, or other moving elements, unless expressly permitted.
- b. Signs that emit sound, odor, smoke, steam, vapor, or similar.
- c. Inflatable signs or devices activated by wind or gas, excluding permitted temporary decorative residential features.

9. Prohibited Lighting and Visual Effects

- a. Signs using lighting which creates a nuisance or safety hazard due to glare or visual distraction.
- b. Strings or lights used for attention attracting purposes, unless part of a permitted holiday or landscape lighting display.
- c. Exposed neon tubing, skeleton lighting, or other similar tube lighting signs shall not be permitted except where such lighting is used behind solid lettering to produce a "halo" effect, or where it is used indirectly.

10. Vehicle and Trailer Signs

- a. Signs mounted to vehicles, trailers, or mobile equipment parked or stored on public or private property for extended periods in a manner that functions as static display, unless permanently affixed as part of the original manufacturer's design or exempted by [Section 7.07. Signs Exempted from Permitting](#).
- b. Mobile or portable signs not permanently installed or anchored.

7.09. PERMANENT SIGN REGULATIONS

[Table 7.09-1](#) identifies the types of permanent signs that are permitted for each use category.

Table 7.09-1: Permitted Permanent Sign Types							
SIGN TYPE	AGRICULTURAL USES	SINGLE- AND TWO-FAMILY DWELLINGS	MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS	PUBLIC AND SEMI-PUBLIC USES	COMMERCIAL USES	INDUSTRIAL USES	SIGN TYPE REGULATIONS
Awning or Canopy Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.A
Electronic Message Boards	-	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.B
Ground Mounted Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.C
Incidental Signs	PS	-	PS	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.D
Interstate Business Signs	Per Section Z.09.E.1						Z.09.E
Menu Board Signs	-	-	-	-	PS	-	Z.09.F
Monument Entrance Signs	Per Section Z.09.G						Z.09.G
Pole Signs	-	-	-	-	PS	PS	Z.09.H
Projecting Signs	-	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.I
Wall Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.J
Window Signs	PS	-	-	PS	PS	PS	Z.09.K
PS Permitted with Standards Shaded / "-" Prohibited							

A. Awning and Canopy Signs

Awning or canopy signs shall be permitted for any agricultural, public or institutional, commercial, or industrial use. Such signs shall not exceed the maximum height of the principal structure when mounted on the copy of the canopy. Awning and canopy signs are subject to the following regulations:

Table 7.09-2: Awning and Canopy Sign Regulations		
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT	
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS		
Quantity	No Limit	
Maximum Sign Area	The area of all awning and/or canopy signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage per Section 7.09J. Wall Signs	
Maximum Projection	48 inches	
Illumination	Awning Signs: External Only	Canopy Signs: Internal or External
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS		
* Same as Non-Residential Districts		



Figure 7-1: Example of Awning Sign

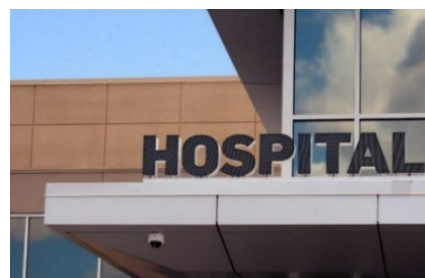


Figure 7-2: Example of Canopy Sign

B. Electronic Message Boards

Electronic message boards are permitted for any public or institutional, commercial, or industrial use, subject to the following regulations:

1. Electronic message boards (EMB) shall be located a minimum of 250 feet from any agricultural or residential use, unless such EMB is not visible from the agricultural or residential use.
2. No more than one (1) electronic message board is permitted per parcel.
3. Electronic message boards shall only be permitted on ground mounted signs and shall not exceed 50 percent of the size of the total sign to ensure that the electronic component is subordinate to the principal sign face in size.
4. Electronic message board signs shall be encased in brick, stone, cultured stone, brick composite, or similar material. This does not apply to electronic menu boards or electronic gas station prices that are located on a canopy fascia.
5. Scrolling, flashing, and moving animations are prohibited.
6. Each message on an electronic message board shall be displayed for no less than seven (7) seconds before transitioning.
7. Electronic message boards shall not stream full-motion video, strobe, flash on or off, change in intensity of illumination, or illustrate movement.
8. Electronic message boards shall be equipped with automatic dimmer controls to produce a distinct illumination change from a higher illumination level to a lower illumination level between one-half hour before sunset (dusk) and one-half hour after sunrise (dawn).
9. Electronic message boards shall not exceed a maximum illumination of 5,000 nits (candelas per square meter) during daylight hours and a maximum illumination of 500 nits (candelas per square meter) between dusk to dawn as measured from sign face at maximum brightness. The applicant shall provide a certificate of maximum illumination prior to approval of any sign permit.



Figure 7-3: Example of Electronic Message Board Sign

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7.09. PERMANENT SIGN REGULATIONS

C. Ground Mounted Signs

Ground mounted signs are permitted for any agricultural, public or institutional, commercial, or industrial use. Ground **mounted** signs must be located on the same parcel to which they are an accessory use. Off-premises advertising is not permitted on ground mounted signs. Ground mounted signs are subject to the following regulations:

Table 7.09-3: Ground Mounted Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	1 per right-of-way frontage
Maximum Sign Area	40 square feet
Maximum Height	9 feet
Setback from right-of-way	10 feet
Setback from side lines	5 feet
Setback from rear lot lines	5 feet
Illumination	Agricultural Use: Prohibited Public or Institutional, Commercial or Industrial Use: Internal or External
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	1 per right-of-way frontage
Maximum Sign Area	32 square feet
Maximum Height	6 feet
Setback from right-of-way	10 feet
Setback from side and rear lot lines	15 feet
Illumination	Agricultural Use: Prohibited Public or Institutional, or Commercial: Internal or External

- The foundation of ground mounted signs shall be constructed of stone, brick, cultured stone, brick composite, or other similar materials, unless otherwise approved by the Planning Commission.
- Ground-mounted signs are subject to the landscaping requirements of [Section 7.12 \(Sign Landscaping Requirements\)](#).
- Developments that have frontage on more than one (1) public right-of-way may combine the number of allowable signs into one (1) ground mounted sign that does not exceed 150% of the allowable height and area.
- A property with more than 250 feet of frontage may have two (2) ground mounted signs provided:
 - Each sign is located at least 100 feet from any other ground sign on the same or adjacent parcel.
 - If only one ground sign is used, it may be increased up to 150% of the standard size limit.
- Where a final development plan has been approved for a single development that includes multiple parcels, a single shared ground sign may be shared for the development provided:
 - Shared ground sign may be increased up to 150% of the standard size limit;
 - One (1) allowable sign must be eliminated for each shared sign; and
 - A written agreement by all property owners within the development shall be submitted as part of the sign permit application.
- No ground-mounted sign shall be placed within the sight distance triangle of a street intersection, or the intersection of the entrance / exit to a business and the public street. For the purposes of this section, the following sight distance triangle measurements shall be used:
 - City or County Street**
When two city county streets intersect or a driveway intersects a city or county street, the sight distance triangle shall consist of the area between points 25 feet

along both streets from the intersection of the edges of the pavement as indicated in [Figure 7.4](#) below.

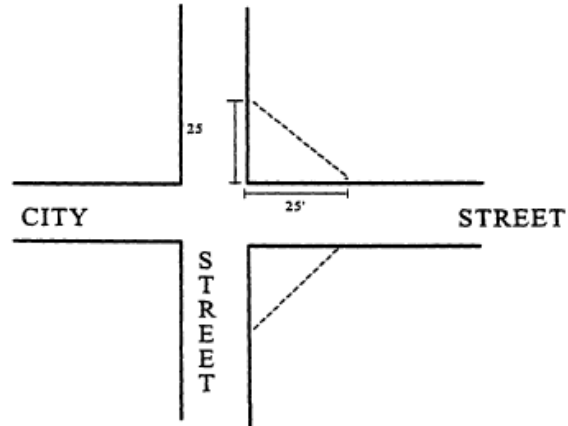


Figure 7-4: City or County Street Sight Distance Triangle Illustration

b. **State Highway**

Where a city or county street, driveway, or other entrance intersects with a state highway, the sight distance triangle shall consist of the area between a point 10 feet along the street or driveway edge of pavement and a point located along the edge of the state highway pavement, the distance an automobile traveling the speed limit can go in six (6) seconds, as indicated in [Figure 7-5](#) below.

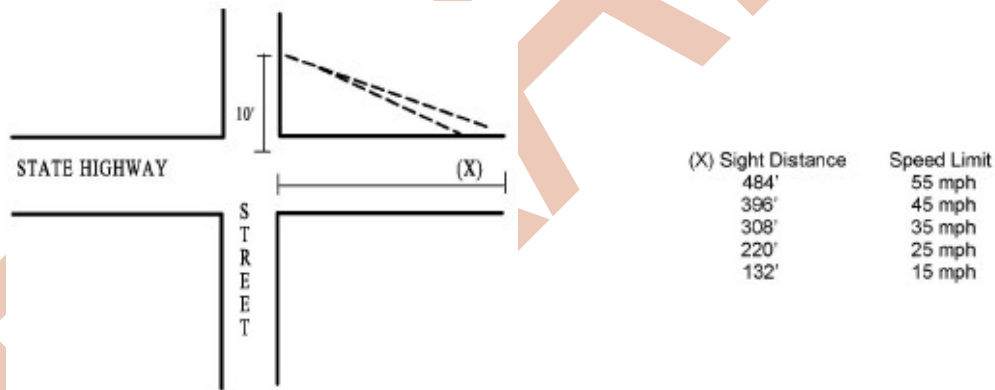


Figure 7-5: State Highway Sight Distance Triangle Illustration



Figure 7-6: Example of Ground Sign



Figure 7-7: Example of Monument Sign

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7.09. PERMANENT SIGN REGULATIONS

D. Incidental Signs

Incidental signs are those signs not visible from the public right-of-way which are generally intended for on-site wayfinding. Incidental signs may be permitted for any multi-family residential, public or institutional, commercial, or industrial use subject to the following regulations.

Table 7.09-4: Incidental or Information Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	No Limit
Location	Shall not be visible from public right-of-way
Maximum Sign Area	9 square feet
Maximum Height	5 feet
Setback from right-of-way	10 feet
Setback from side and rear lot lines	5 feet
Illumination	Prohibited
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
* Same as Non-Residential Districts	



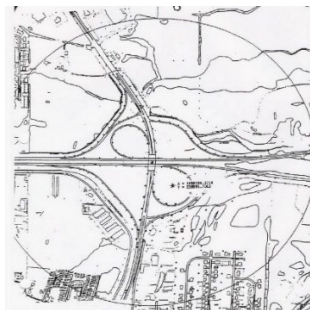
Figure 7.8: Example of Incidental Sign

E. Interstate Business Signs

1. Locations Permitted

Interstate business signs shall be limited to a 3,500-foot radius of the center point of the following, as indicated in [Map 7.09-1](#):

- the intersection of U.S. Highway 127 and Interstate 64;
- the intersection of U.S. Highway 60, Versailles Road and Interstate 64;
- the intersection of U.S. 151 and Interstate 64.



Map 7-1: Interstate Business Signs Permitted Locations

2. Sign Regulations

Table 7.09-5: Interstate Business Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
LOCATIONS PERMITTED	
Quantity	1 per lot as applicable under Section 7.09.E.1 ; Sign shall be located on the same lot as the principal use to which it is accessory
Maximum Sign Area	350 square feet
Maximum Height	100 feet
Setback from All Property Lines (min)	15 feet
Illumination	Agricultural Use: Prohibited Non-Residential Uses: Internal or External

F. Menu Board Signs

Menu board signs are only permitted for commercial uses with an approved drive-through use. Menu boards are subject to the following regulations:

Table 7.09-6: Menu Board Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	2 per drive-through lane
Maximum Sign Area	40 square feet
Maximum Height	10 feet
Setback from right-of-way	10 feet
Setback from side and rear lot lines	15 feet
Illumination	Internal or External
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
* Prohibited	



Figure 7-9: Example of Menu Board Sign

G. Monument Entrance Signs

Monument Entrance Signs are permitted at the primary entrance(s) of residential subdivisions or multi-family residential development subject to the following regulations:

Table 7.09-7: Monument Entrance Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	1 per primary entrance
Maximum Sign Area	32 square feet
Maximum Height	6 feet
Setback from right-of-way	10 feet
Illumination	External only
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
* Same as Non-Residential Districts	

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Figure 7-10: Example of Development Entrance Sign

H. Pole Signs

Pole or pylon signs are permitted for only those commercial and industrial uses within the area identified in [Section 7.09.E. Interstate Business Signs](#).

Table 7.09-8: Pole Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	1 per parcel
Maximum Sign Area	100 sq. ft.
Maximum Height	25 feet
Setback from right-of-way	10 feet
Setback from side and rear lot lines	15 feet
Illumination	Internal Illumination
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
* Prohibited	

I. Projecting Signs

Projecting signs are permitted for commercial and industrial uses subject to the following regulations:

Table 7.09-9: Projecting Signs	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	1 per parcel or storefront
Maximum Area	8 square feet
Maximum Projection	18 inches
Required Clearance	Bottom of Sign (Minimum): 8 feet above pedestrian ways Top of Sign (Maximum): 15 feet above pedestrian ways
Illumination	External only
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
* Same as non-residential districts	



Figure 7-11: Example of Projecting Sign

J. Wall Signs

Wall signs shall be permitted for any agricultural, public or institutional, commercial, or industrial use subject to the following regulations:

Table 7.09-10: Wall Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	No limit as long as the cumulative square footage of all wall signs do not exceed the maximum area requirement
Maximum Area	20% of the building face or 250 square feet, whichever is less, for each building face that directly abuts public or private street frontage.
Maximum Projection	12 inches
Illumination	Internal or External
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
*Permitted only for Dwelling, Multi-Family, 30+ Units, or non-residential uses only. Signs shall conform to the regulations for Non-Residential Districts as established above. Wall signage in residential districts shall not be internally illuminated. External illumination may be permitted subject to all illumination standards of Article 5. Outdoor Lighting.	



Figure 7-12: Example of Wall Sign



Figure 7-13: Example of Wall Sign

K. Window Signs

Window signs shall be permitted for any agricultural, public or institutional, commercial, or industrial use subject to the following regulations:

Table 7.09-11: Window Sign Regulations	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	No limit as long as the cumulative square footage of all window signs do not exceed the maximum area requirement
Maximum Area	The cumulative maximum area of all window signs shall be included in the overall calculation of allowable wall signage. A maximum of 50% of each window may be covered by window signs.
Illumination	Not permitted
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
*Same as Non-Residential Districts	



Figure 7-14 Example of Window Sign

7.10. TEMPORARY SIGN REGULATIONS

A. Purpose

The purpose of this section is to establish duration, placement, and method of display for signs intended for temporary display in order to ensure public safety, visibility, and cohesive community aesthetics.

B. General Regulations

Temporary signs are permitted in all zoning districts, subject to the following:

1. Permit Required

A permit is required for any temporary sign exceeding 24 square feet in area, or six (6) feet in height.

2. Location

- Temporary signs shall be located entirely on private property with property owner or authorized agent consent.
- Signs shall not be located within any public rights-of-way, easements, or sight distance triangles.
- Signs shall not be affixed to utility poles, street signs, or trees.

3. Display Standards

The following shall apply to temporary signs located within the applicable zoning designations, unless otherwise specified in [Section 7.10.B.4. Exemptions](#):

Table 7.10-1: Temporary Sign Standards	
REGULATION	REQUIREMENT
NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	No more than four (4) per parcel at any one (1) time
Maximum Area	32 sq. ft. per sign face
Maximum Height	Freestanding – 8’ Affixed to Building – Limited to first story of structure
Illumination	Prohibited
Duration of Display (max)	60 days in any single calendar year (allowance may be consecutive or in separate display periods)
RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS	
Quantity	No more than four (4) per parcel at any one (1) time
Maximum Area	6 sq. ft. per sign face
Maximum Height	Freestanding – 4’ Affixed to Building – Limited to first story of structure
Illumination	Prohibited
Duration of Display (max)	60 days in any single calendar year (allowance may be consecutive or in separate display periods)
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT AND SPECIAL DISTRICTS	
*PD-R and residential uses shall be subject to the temporary signage standards for residential districts; PD-C, PD-R and non-residential uses shall be subject to the temporary signage standards for non-residential districts	

4. Exemptions

The following circumstances may be exempt from the duration of display limits established by [Table 7.10-2](#).

Table 7.10-2: Exempted Temporary Sign Standards			
Regulation	Lots with Active Construction Permits	Lots actively marketed for transfer or lease	
		Non-Residential Districts	Residential Districts
Maximum Area	32 sq. ft.	32 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.
Maximum Height	8’	6’	6’
Duration (max)	Removed within 14 days of final inspection, certificate of occupancy, or permit expiration	Removed within seven (7) days of the lots withdrawal from the market or transfer	

C. Prohibited Temporary Signs

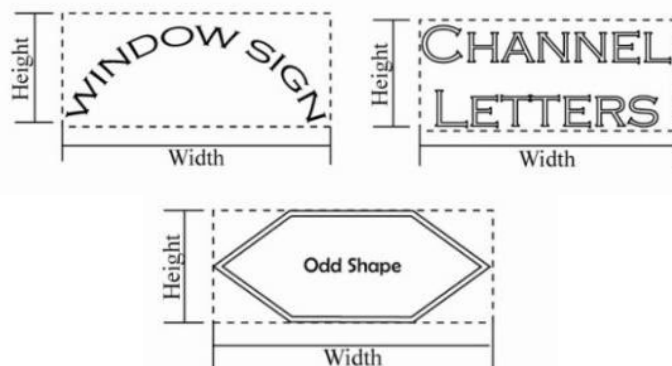
The following types of temporary signs are prohibited:

1. Ballons and inflatables;
2. Feather flags, swooper flags, flutter signs, or similar;
3. Flashing, blinking, or animated signs;
4. Signs that obstruct pedestrian or vehicular visibility or access
5. Signs mounted on an operable or inoperable vehicle or trailer intended to remain stationary during the duration of display.

7.11. MEASUREMENTS AND COMPUTATIONS

A. Sign Area

1. The area of a sign face, which includes wall signs, shall be computed by the following:
 - a. The smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle, or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display,
 - b. Any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed.
 - c. When channel letters are use, a geometric shape shall encompass all portions of the letters in a single shape consisting of not more than two (2) of the above mentioned shapes.
 - d. The area of an awning sign, canopy sign, or a sign consisting of individual letters or symbols against a wall shall be the sum of the area within a rectangular envelope completely enclosing the attached group.
2. The sign area shall exclude any supporting structure or bracing, or any decorative feature not related to the sign.
3. The sign area for a sign with more than one face shall be the total area of all sign faces visible at the same time from any one (1) point of view. Where only one sign face is visible from a given point of view, only that face shall be included in the sign area calculation.
4. When two (2) identical sign faces are placed back-to-back or otherwise angled so that both faces cannot be viewed from any one (1) point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than 42 inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one (1) of the faces.



ARTICLE 7. SIGNAGE

7.11. MEASUREMENTS AND COMPUTATIONS

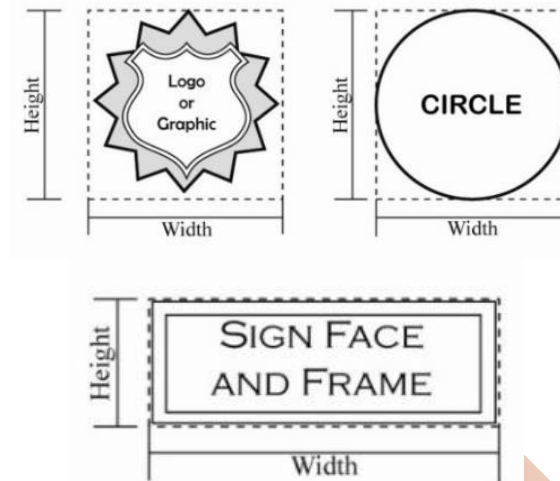


Figure 7-15: Determination of Sign Area Measurements

B. Sign Height

1. The height of a sign shall be computed as the vertical distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign.
2. Normal grade shall be construed to be the lower of:
 - a. The existing grade prior to construction, or
 - b. The newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign.
3. In cases in which the normal grade cannot reasonably be determined, the average of the grade at the sign base and the grade 6 feet from the sign, shall be determined as the normal grade.

C. Sign Setback

The setback of a sign shall be determined by measuring the shortest horizontal distance between a lot line and the closet part or projection of the sign and/or support structure.

D. Building Wall and Lot Frontage Measurements

When the maximum sign area is determined by the lineal distance of a building front wall, or portion of a building wall, the following measurement standards shall be applied:

1. The building frontage is the length of an outside building wall which fronts a dedicated street right-of-way or access drive.
2. For multi-tenant buildings or structures, the lineal distance of the front building wall comprising the width of the tenant space only shall be used to determine the front building wall width.

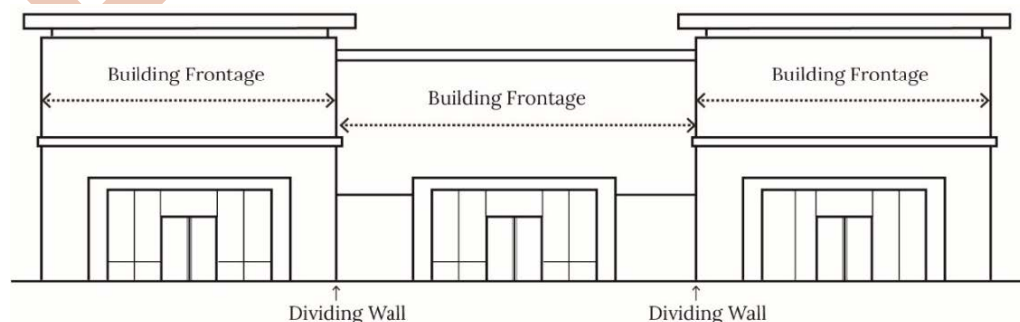


Figure 7-16: Determination of Building Frontage for Multi-Occupant Building

7.12. SIGN LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS

- A. All permanent ground-mounted signs, menu board signs, and pole signs, shall require a single continuous landscaped area to be maintained beneath and around the base of the sign in accordance with the applicable regulations in [Section 7.09. Permanent Sign Regulations](#) and the following standards:
1. The minimum landscaped area shall maintain a minimum width of three (3) feet around the perimeter of the base of the sign, including all points where the sign structural supports are attached to the ground.
 2. Where the required landscape area is adjacent to a paved surface accessible to vehicular traffic, a raised, non-mountable curb suitable to prevent the encroachment of vehicles shall be required.
 3. The landscaped area shall include vegetative plantings aesthetically located and maintained. The use of concrete, asphalt, gravel or any other paved surface inside the required landscaped area shall be prohibited.
 4. A construction level detail landscape plan and landscape maintenance plan shall be submitted in conjunction with the sign permit application.
 5. Landscaping and buffering materials shall be fully installed on the site by completion of construction and prior to issuance of approval of a final inspection.
- B. The required landscaping shall be planted within one (1) planting season after completion of construction of the sign. If that is not feasible due to weather conditions, the Planning & Zoning Director may grant an extension of the planting time frame.

7.13. SIGN LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. **General Requirements**
1. Signs identified in this article are permitted to be internally or externally illuminated unless otherwise provided for in this article.
 2. Signs that are externally illuminated shall employ illumination that is constant, stationary, and shielded. Illumination shall be directed only on the sign.
 3. Sign illumination is subject to the lighting regulations in [Article 8. Outdoor Lighting](#).
- B. **Non-Glare and Shield Lighting**
- Use of glaring, unshielded, or undiffused lights or bulbs shall be prohibited. Lights shall be shielded so as not to project onto adjoining properties or roadways.
- C. **Traffic Hazards**
- Sign illumination shall not create a distraction for motorists or a hazard for traffic.
- D. **Bare Bulb Illumination**
- Illumination by bare bulbs or flames is prohibited
- E. **Intensity**
- The intensity of illumination resulting from all internal and external sign lighting shall not exceed one-half (0.5) footcandles at a height of five (5) feet when measured at any point on property in a residential zoning district, or at any point on any public right-of-way.

7.14. SIGN CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

- A. All metal parts used in a sign or sign structure, including supports and braces, shall be galvanized or of corrosive-resistant material or painted with corrosive-resistant paint.

ARTICLE 7. SIGNAGE

7.15. MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS

- B. When existing poles or structures are used for new sign installation, all parts shall be brought to like-new condition and shall be painted with approved rust and corrosion-resistant paint.
- C. No equipment, such as cables to support electric circuits, light fixtures, or guys, may be added to a sign structure or supports. Brackets, wires, switches, and other materials required to illuminate the sign may be added.
- D. When a sign structure or supports are used in any manner other than outlined herein, certification by a licensed engineer shall be obtained to show the structure is capable of supporting the load.
- E. When a sign is removed for any reason, a new sign permit for the future installation of any sign shall be obtained, and all mast arms, cables, guys of any nature, clips, brackets, and all structure of the old sign shall be removed with the sign.
- F. Glass in any sign shall be either double strength, plate, or wired glass.

7.15. MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS

A. Sign Condition

- 1. All signs, including their supports, braces, guys and anchors, electrical parts and lighting fixtures, and all painted and display areas, shall be maintained in good repair in accordance with these Zoning Regulations, and applicable building and electrical codes.
- 2. If a sign is removed and not replaced, the property owner shall also remove any related sign equipment and accessories and the building, structure, or ground, shall be restored back to its original condition.

B. Landscaping

- 1. The area surrounding any ground-mounted or pole sign shall be kept clean, sanitary, and free from noxious and offensive substances, weeds, debris, rubbish, and flammable material.
- 2. All plant materials and other landscaping surrounding any sign shall be maintained on a regular basis, including pruning, mowing, watering, fertilizing, and replacement of dead and diseased materials.

C. Inspection of Existing Signs

The Planning & Zoning Director shall have the authority to routinely enter onto property to inspect existing signs permitted after the effective date of these zoning regulations for compliance with this article, and applicable building and electrical codes.

D. Correction of Defects

- 1. The sign owner shall be notified by the Planning & Zoning Director of any defects or deferred maintenance requiring corrective action in writing.
- 2. If any sign reaches a state of disrepair and is deemed unsightly or unsafe or abandoned by the Planning & Zoning Director and is not properly renovated or otherwise brought into compliance within 30 days, it shall be condemned, and an order issued for its immediate removal by the sign erector, owner of the sign, or owner of the land.

7.16. NONCONFORMING SIGNS

A. Effective Date

- 1. A permanent sign that is nonconforming as to the applicable sign regulations prevailing on the effective date of this code, and that is legally erected in accordance with a valid sign permit, shall be construed as a legal nonconforming sign.
- 2. A sign conforming as to the applicable sign regulations prevailing on the effective date of these regulations, but which do not conform with the regulations of a subsequent amendment to these Zoning Regulations, shall also be construed as a legal nonconforming sign.

B. Maintenance, Repair, and Alteration**1. Repairs**

Ordinary repairs and nonstructural alterations may be made to a legal nonconforming sign. No structural alterations shall be made in, to, or upon such nonconforming sign, except those required by law to bring the sign into conformance with the requirements of this article.

2. Additions and Enlargements

A legal nonconforming sign shall not be added to or enlarged in any manner, except to make the sign conform to the requirements of this article.

3. Moving and Relocation

No nonconforming sign shall be moved in whole or in part to any other location unless such sign, and the use thereof, are made to conform to all requirements of this article.

4. Restoration of Damaged Legal Nonconforming Sign

- a. If any legal nonconforming sign or part thereof is damaged or destroyed to more than 50 percent of its current reproduction value or is taken down, it shall not be rebuilt or relocated unless it is made to comply with the applicable regulations of this article and a sign permit application is approved by the City of Frankfort or Franklin County. It shall be the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that the damage is greater than 50 percent of the current reproductive value.
- b. In the event that such damage or destruction is less than 50 percent of its current reproduction value, the sign may be repaired to its original size, location, and design. In order to maintain the legal nonconforming use status, all repairs or reconstruction shall be started within six (6) months from the date of the partial destruction and fully completed within three (3) months from the start of restoration or reconstruction activity.

5. Sign Face Replacement

The Planning and Zoning Director may issue a sign permit for the replacement of the face of a legal nonconforming wall sign or ground-mounted sign if such sign face area is not increased. Otherwise, a nonconforming sign shall not be altered or moved unless it is made to comply with this article.

C. Removal of Nonconforming Signs

1. Any business which has ceased operation (expiration of business license) for sixty (60) days shall, for the purposes of this article, be determined to be abandoned.
2. All signs associated with such an abandoned business shall be removed by the owner of the property upon which the sign is located within thirty (30) days of written notification by the City of Frankfort or Franklin County.
3. Seasonal businesses are exempt from this provision.

D. Engraved and Similar Signs

Any sign, graphic, or numeral display embossed, etched, engraved, or otherwise incorporated as an integral part of the original building's masonry architecture, which was in existence prior to the effective date of this article may be continued, provided that such sign, graphic, or numeral display is maintained as originally designed and intended.

7.17. VIOLATIONS, PENALTY, AND ENFORCEMENT

- A. If upon inspection the Planning Director or Building Inspector, or designee finds that any sign is abandoned, unsafe, or in any way not in compliance with the regulations of this article, he or she shall

ARTICLE 7. SIGNAGE

7.18. REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF SIGNS

issue a written order to the property owner stating the nature of the violation and requiring the repair or replacement or removal of the sign within 30 days of the date of the order.

- B. A violation of the provisions of this article shall be penalized in accordance with [Section 13.09. Administration and Enforcement](#) of these Zoning Regulations.

7.18. REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF SIGNS

A. Abandoned Signs

1. Except as otherwise provided in this article, any on-premises sign which is located on property which use becomes vacant and unoccupied for a continuous period of 90 days or more, or any sign which pertains to a time, event or purpose which no longer applies, shall be deemed to be abandoned. An abandoned sign is prohibited and shall be removed by the owner of the sign or owner of the premises.
2. Permanent signs applicable to a business temporarily vacant because of a change in ownership or management of such business shall not be deemed abandoned unless the property remains vacant for a continuous period of 90 days.

B. Dangerous or Defective Signs

No persons shall maintain or permit to be maintained on any premises owned or controlled by them any sign which is in dangerous or defective condition. Any such sign shall be removed or repaired by the owner of the premises.

C. Removal of Signs by the Property Owner

When a property owner, or anyone acting on behalf of a property owner, voluntarily removes any sign or supporting structure, the building or ground upon which the sign had been mounted or installed shall be restored to its original condition.

D. Removal of Signs in Violation by the City or County

1. The Planning Director, or its designee, may cause to be removed any permanent, temporary, or portable sign in violation of this chapter or any sign for which no sign permit has been issued. The Planning Director, or its designee, shall prepare a notice which shall describe the sign and specify the violations involved and which shall state that if the sign is not removed or if each violation is not corrected within 30 days, the sign shall be removed in accordance with the provisions of this section.
2. All notices mailed by the Planning Director, or its designee, shall be sent by certified mail and regular. The notice shall be mailed to the owner of the property on which the sign is located as indicated by the most recent property owner information published by the Franklin County PVA. The notice shall also be mailed to or delivered to the occupant of the property and the sign permit applicant. Any conformance time periods provided in this section shall be deemed to commence on the date of mailing of the certified mail. In the event the sign is not connected to a specific parcel, the Planning Director, or its designee, shall send notice to the individual or entity for which the sign message relates to.
3. Any person having an interest in the sign, or the property may appeal the determination of the Planning Director, or its designee, ordering compliance, removal, or compliance by filing a written notice of appeal with the Board of Adjustments, within 10 days after receipt date of the notice as determined by the returned certified mail confirmation. In the event the property owner or occupant fails to accept the certified mail announcement, constructive receipt shall be deemed to have occurred after 15 days from the certified notice mailing date.
4. The Planning Director, or its designee, shall be, and hereby is expressly authorized to remove, without notice, any and all signs placed in or upon any tree lawn or other right-of-way area.

5. Notwithstanding the above, in cases of emergency and to ensure public safety, the Planning Director, or its designee, may cause the immediate removal of a dangerous or defective sign without notice.
6. Signs, flags, banners, posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, spinners, or other similar moving devices, which are installed or erected, shall be removed immediately upon the notice methods provided in this section.

7.19. VARIANCES AND APPEALS

- A. Except for signs proposed within a Planned Unit Development, variances and appeals to these sign regulations shall be as provided in [Section 13.06.C. Variances](#) of these Zoning Regulations.
- B. The Board of Zoning Adjustments shall have the power to grant variances from the height, area or setback provisions of this article, in accordance with the variance provisions outlined in [KRS 100.243](#), Findings Necessary for Granting a Variance.
- C. The Board of Zoning Adjustment shall not grant a sign variance that permits the continuance of any nonconformity.