

18.30.150 Signs.

No sign shall hereafter be erected or used for any purpose or in any manner except as permitted by the regulations of this section or as specified elsewhere in this code. All signs subject to this section shall be subject to approval and issuance of a sign permit by the administrator according to a Type 1 permit approval process as specified in Chapter 18.40 JCC. The administrator may waive certain requirements of this section or require additional conditions for any sign permit, if deemed necessary to maintain consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

- (1) Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited:
 - (a) Abandoned signs;
 - (b) Billboards;
 - (c) Flashing, revolving or moving signs, excepting clocks;
 - (d) Off-site signs which advertise a business;
 - (e) Signs or sign structures, which by coloring, shape, working, or location resemble or conflict with traffic-control signs or devices;
 - (f) Signs which create a safety hazard for pedestrians or vehicular traffic; and
 - (g) Signs attached to utility poles or traffic signs.
- (2) Exemptions. The following signs are exempt from the provisions of this section:
 - (a) Traffic and standardized public signs installed by a government entity;
 - (b) Window and merchandise displays, point of purchase advertising displays such as product dispensers and barber poles;
 - (c) National flags, flags of a political subdivision, and symbolic flags of an institution or business;
 - (d) Legal notices required by law;
 - (e) Historic site plaques and markers and gravestones;
 - (f) Personal signs on private property displaying personal messages such as "yard sale" or "no trespassing";
 - (g) Political messages;
 - (h) Structures intended for separate use, such as recycling containers and phone booths;
 - (i) Real estate signs; and
 - (j) Lettering painted on or magnetically flush-mounted onto a motor vehicle operating in the normal course of business.
- (3) Design Standards. All signs must meet the following standards:
 - (a) The following standards apply to the illumination and illustration of signs:
 - (i) The illumination of signs shall be shaded, shielded, or directed so the light intensity or brightness shall not adversely affect surrounding properties or public and private rights-of-way or create a hazard or nuisance to the traveling public, or to surrounding properties.
 - (ii) No sign or part thereof shall consist of rotating, revolving, or moving parts; consist of banners, streamers, or spinners; or involve flashing, blinking, or alternating lights. An exception to this standard is temporary signs associated with local festivals, fairs, parades, or special events pursuant to subsection (4) (a) of this section.
 - (b) Sign size shall be regulated as follows:
 - (i) The total square footage of signs shall not exceed 64 square feet for any business within any commercial or industrial land use district. Multitenant developments may have

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one freestanding sign for each access point, commonly identifying the businesses within multitenant developments provided such signs total no more than 64 square feet in aggregate. The maximum aggregate size for projection signs placed on a building is limited to one percent of the floor areas of the building, except that each occupant is allowed a sign of at least two square feet. In no case may an individual occupant's sign be larger than 15 square feet.

(ii) The square footage of signs shall be calculated by the outside dimensions necessary to frame the information displayed. No sign mounted on a building shall extend above or beyond the eave, rake, or parapet of the wall on which it is mounted. Any sign projecting beyond six inches from a perpendicular wall shall be at least seven feet above grade.

(iii) Directional, identification or advertising signs for any use located in any rural residential district shall not exceed 32 square feet, with the exception of institutional use signs, which shall not exceed 64 square feet.

(c) Uses located in any rural commercial or industrial land use districts shall have no more than two on-premises signs except as allowed in this section for multitenant developments.

(d) Signs attached to or painted against the structure to which it relates shall be computed as a part of the overall total square footage, or number of signs allowed.

(e) All signs shall be continuously maintained. Signs that present a public hazard as determined by the Jefferson County building official or department of public works shall be subject to abatement.

(f) The design of freestanding signs shall include measures to restrict vehicles from passing beneath them, unless otherwise permitted by the Jefferson County department of public works. All free standing pole signs or projecting signs shall provide pedestrian clearance to a minimum of eight feet, where applicable.

(g) Signs should be incorporated into the landscaping of the site when landscaping is provided.

(h) No signs, other than those related to water dependent uses, such as a marina, are permitted to face seaward, excepting signs relating to safety concerns, such as cable-crossing, construction-dredging, fuel area, etc.

(i) No sign shall be placed in the public right-of-way or in the vision clearance triangle of intersections and curb cuts, unless otherwise approved by the Jefferson County department of public works.

(4) Specialty Signs. Specialty signs may be established when consistent with the standards set forth below:

(a) Signs and banners promoting public festivals, community or special events, and grand openings may be displayed up to 30 days prior to the event, and shall be removed no later than seven days after the event. The sponsoring entity is responsible for sign removal. Event signs may be located "off-site."

(b) Signs which identify a recognized community or unincorporated place are permitted at each entrance to the community. Said signs are limited to one per entrance, and may not exceed 64 square feet or eight feet in height. Signs relating to clubs, societies, orders, fraternities and the like shall be permitted as part of the community sign.

- (c) Businesses may erect temporary on-site sandwich board signs subject to the following criteria:
 - (i) No more than two sandwich board signs may be erected per business;
 - (ii) Sandwich board signs shall not exceed four feet in height or three feet in width;
 - (iii) Sandwich board signs shall be displayed during business hours only;
 - (iv) Sandwich board signs shall not be placed on sidewalks; and
 - (v) Sandwich board signs shall not be placed in public road rights-of-way unless approved by the Jefferson County department of public works.
- (d) Off-site signs may only be allowed when they meet all of the following standards:
 - (i) Are directional in nature;
 - (ii) Located on private property along a major or minor arterial;
 - (iii) Located no more than 600 feet from an intersection; and
 - (iv) No larger than 12 square feet.
- (5) Nonconforming Signs. Legally established signs in place prior to the adoption of these standards and not in conformance with these standards shall be considered legal, nonconforming signs, and may remain as provided below:
 - (a) Nonconforming off-premises signs shall be removed within five years of adoption of this code. Until then, such signs must be continually maintained, not relocated, and not structurally altered. Nonconforming off-premises signs may be replaced by off-site directional signs as allowed in this section.
 - (b) Nonconforming on-premises signs may remain provided they are continually maintained, not relocated, and not structurally altered.
 - (c) Billboards which are in place prior to the adoption of the ordinance codified in this code may remain provided they are continually maintained, not relocated, and not structurally altered. [Ord. 11-00 § 6.15]