

CHAPTER 12

EXEMPT SIGNS

SECTION:

12-12-1 EXEMPT SIGNS

The provisions and regulations of this Title shall not apply to the following signs; however, said signs shall be subject to the provisions of Section 12-10-1.

- A. Decorations and traditional lighting schemes displayed in connection with civic, patriotic or religious holidays.
- A. Directory signs no more than six (6) square feet in surface area.
- B. Institutional Bulletin Board. One (1) bulletin board sign with a Sign Area not more than twelve (12) square feet not to exceed a maximum height of six (6) feet for a place of worship, library, school or other public building, provided such sign shall be located on the same zoning lot as the principal building.
- C. Miscellaneous information signs. The following types of miscellaneous information signs shall be exempt from sign permit requirements:
 - 1. Matter appearing on newspaper vending boxes.
 - 2. Matter appearing on or adjacent to entry doors such as PUSH, PULL, OPEN and/or CLOSED.
 - 3. Matter appearing on display windows or doors denoting hours of operation, credit cards accepted, and similar information.
 - 4. Information pertaining to the operating instructions, name or logo of vending machines and automatic teller machines. Such signs shall not exceed thirty (30) percent of that portion of the machine upon which the sign is placed and shall appear on only one (1) of its faces.
- D. Official federal, state or local government traffic, directional and informational signs and notices issued by any court, person or officer in performance of a public duty or any other sign that is required to be posted by any government agency, including but not limited to signs described in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the Illinois Vehicle Code and the Illinois Highway Code.
- E. Plaques or tablets, denoting names of buildings and date of erection cut into any masonry surface.
- F. Political signs are permitted only on private property and require consent of the property owner. Signs may be double-sided and shall be limited to six (6) square feet in area per side and a maximum height of four (4) feet.
- G. Residential street and/or house signs not exceeding one and one-half (1½) square feet in area, which are limited to address information.

- H. Signs placed or painted on parked vehicles for the sale of the vehicle. Signs for sale vehicles must be located on the owner's premises and only one (1) such sign may be displayed regardless of the number of vehicles for sale.
- I. Signs warning of construction, excavation or similar hazards so long as the hazard exists.
- J. Signs placed by utilities to show the location of underground facilities.
- K. The following alteration and maintenance operations are exempt from sign permit requirements:
 - 1. Changing of the advertising copy or message on an existing changeable copy sign or similar approved sign, whether illuminated or non-illuminated.
 - 2. Painting, repainting, cleaning, changing permitted items of information, or other normal maintenance and repair of a sign, not involving structural changes or changes in the electrical components of the sign.
 - 3. Subject to the sign owner's consent, a noncommercial message of any type may be substituted, in whole or in part, for any commercial message or any other noncommercial message provided that the sign structure or mounting device is permitted without consideration of message content. Such substitution of message may be made without any additional approval or permitting. This provision prevails over any more specific provision to the contrary within the Title. The purpose of this provision is to prevent any inadvertent favoring of commercial speech over noncommercial speech, or favoring of any particular noncommercial message over any other noncommercial message. This provision does not create a right to increase the total amount of signage on a parcel, nor does it affect the requirement that a sign structure or mounting device be properly permitted.
- L. Warning sign. Warning signs, such as "no trespassing," "beware of dog," "no solicitation", etc., each not more than one (1) square foot in size and not to exceed two (2) per zoning lot.
- M. Umbrella signs may display only the name and logo of the business operating on the premises where the umbrella signs are located. Umbrella signs shall be of a color and appearance that is harmonious with the color and appearance of the business to which they belong.
- N. Window signs for permanent display are permitted in the Downtown and Corridor Commercial Sign Districts, subject to the following standards.
 - 1. Window signs affixed to, on the inside of, or within the interior of a window shall occupy no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the surface of each window area and be located at least six (6) inches from the edges of any individual window area. "Window area" is counted as a continuous surface comprised of one (1) or more window panes until divided by an architectural or structural element. Mullions are not considered an element that divides a window area. A "window pane" is each discrete piece of glass which is mounted in its own frame.

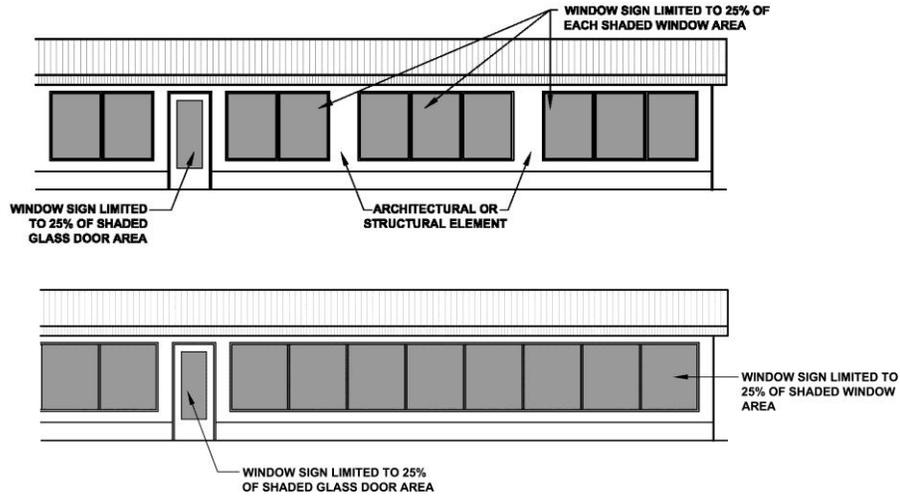


Illustration of window sign area 12-12-1-O-1

2. One (1) window sign shall be permitted for each facade of a building or tenant space that faces a street which includes a display or decorative window, or parking lot where there is a customer entrance or shared customer entrance for multi-tenant commercial development.
3. Permanent window signs shall be designed to read as individual letters, with the exception of logos, which may read as a single item. A company catchphrase or motto may be included on a window sign only if it is a part of the legal name of a business. Products, services, telephone number, or a website address shall not be permitted as part of the Copy on a window sign unless it is part of the legal name of a business. Individual letters and logos may be carved, etched or raised, and must be of a material that is compatible with the architectural style of the building. Logos may also be constructed of a hard synthetic material.
4. Permanent window signs are not limited by color, except for second floor window signs which shall be limited to white, black, silver, or gold and only one color shall be consistently used on the second floor windows per development.
5. No window sign shall be located above the second floor of a building or tenant space.
6. Window signs that are directly attached to the interior of a window surface shall have professionally designed lettering or decals. All other window signs shall have a flexible or hardened backing, of a minimum one-eighth (1/8) inch thickness. No sign shall be affixed directly to the exterior of a window surface, unless otherwise permitted by Section 12-12-1.

7. Any sign located within a building interior that is intended for viewing from the exterior of such a building is considered a window sign.
 8. No sign may be attached to, placed upon or printed on the exterior of a window or door of a building.
- P. Window Wrap.** Window Wrap is permitted for a full window dimension for windows looking into areas where the public is not invited or at blank walls.
- Q. A-Frame Sign.** A-Frame signs shall have a maximum height of three (3) feet and a maximum sign area of six (6) square feet per sign face and may be double-sided. Signs shall be located on the nearest sidewalk no further than ten (10) feet from a public entrance to the said business with in the Downtown and Corridor Commercial Sign Districts. The sign must maintain a 3' clearance on either side to maintain accessible pedestrian access. The signs shall be professionally fabricated, be constructed with wood or metal frames, and contain either a blackboard or poster inserts for the advertising message, The sign shall only be displayed during normal business hours and must be removed at the close of each business day. The sign shall not be displayed in conjunction with other temporary signs for the same business.
- R. Carry-Out Sign.** Parking lot signs designating specific parking spaces for patrons receiving carry-out or to-go orders from food establishments shall be displayed on a single rectangular panel not to exceed 18" in length and 12" in width and shall be no taller than 6 feet (6') in height. No more than 2 carry-out signs shall be allowed per food establishment occupying less than 5,000 square feet of building area and not more than 3 such signs shall be permitted per food establishment occupying 5,000 square feet of building area or more. Food service establishments which operate primarily on carry-out service shall be permitted up to 3 carry-out signs, subject to approval by the Zoning Administrator, based on the availability of long-term parking for patrons of other occupants of the retail center, if any.