



# COMMERCIAL SIGN REGULATIONS

## Sign Permits are required for all signs over six square feet

This handout provides information to assist you in sign regulations for **commercial, mixed-use and industrial areas** in Richfield.

It is not the purpose or intent of this sign ordinance to regulate the message displayed on any sign; nor is it the purpose or intent of this ordinance to regulate any building design or any display not defined as a sign, or any sign which cannot be viewed from outside a building.

Within commercial, mixed-use neighborhood, mixed-use community, mixed-use regional, and industrial zoning districts, the following signs are permitted:

- One (1) freestanding sign per site is permitted as follows:

District	Maximum sign area of single sign	Maximum Height	Total area of all freestanding signs
SO, C-1, MU-N	60 sq ft per side	15 feet	1 sq ft per foot of lot frontage
C-2, MU-C Sites <1 acre	100 sq ft per side	20 feet	1 sq ft per foot of lot frontage
C-2, MU-C Sites 1-2 acres	150 sq ft per side	20 feet	1 sq ft per foot of lot frontage
C-2, MU-C Sites >2 acres	200 sq ft per side	20 feet	1 sq ft per foot of lot frontage
I, MU-R	250 sq ft per side	27 feet	1 sq ft per foot of lot frontage

- Additional freestanding signs on a site shall not exceed 8 feet in height and 50 square feet in area. Planned Unit Development sites greater than 2 acres may request additional signs exceeding 8 feet in height and 50 square feet in area.
- Wall signs may not exceed 15 percent of the total wall area to which the sign is attached. In the case of multiple occupancy, the total area of wall signs which each occupant may display shall not exceed 15 percent of the exterior wall of the portion of the building occupied by that tenant.
- Window signs that do not exceed 30 percent of the window area.
- Canopies, marquees, projecting signs and fixed awnings that are an integral part of the structure to which they are attached are allowed in the above districts if they meet certain requirements.
- Banners are allowed on a temporary basis for 28 calendar days. No more than four (4) temporary sign permits shall be issued to any business or institution within a calendar year. Banners must be securely attached to a structure and removed if damaged. No more than one banner per tenant is allowed on any building frontage.
- Unless specifically noted otherwise, all signs shall maintain a five-foot setback from all lot lines.

**PLANNING & ZONING**  
**RICHFIELD COMMUNITY**  
**DEVELOPMENT**  
**DEPARTMENT**

6700 PORTLAND AVE  
 RICHFIELD, MN 55423

(612) 861-9760

[www.richfieldmn.gov](http://www.richfieldmn.gov)

**ZONING CODE**  
**SECTIONS:**  
**514.05 Subd. 8 (R)**  
**518.05 Subd. 8 (R-1)**

7/2018

## **GENERAL REGULATIONS:**

### **The following signs shall not require a permit.**

- a) The changing of a changeable message as defined in Subsection 549.05 or a dynamic display message.
- b) The changing of the display surface on a painted or printed sign only. This exemption, however, shall apply only to poster replacement and/or on-site changes involving sign painting elsewhere than directly on a building;
- c) Signs six (6) square feet or less in size, including portable signs defined by Section 549.05, Subd. 25 (a) and (b) in accordance with the following:
  - i. Portable signs shall be limited to 4 feet in height and 6 square feet in area;
  - ii. No more than one portable sign shall be displayed per business and no more than two portable signs per site. On Planned Unit Development sites greater than two acres, the total number of portable signs shall not exceed one (1) per 200 feet of lot frontage. Portable signs located at building entrances which are more than 100 feet from the right-of-way shall not count towards this total, though the limitation of one portable sign per business still applies;
  - iii. Portable signs other than yard signs shall not be displayed between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.;
- d) Window signs;
- e) Street identification numbers/address signs;
- f) Bench signs complying with Subsection 805.19, Subd. 4 of the City Code;
- g) Signs on vehicles when the vehicle is being used in the normal day-to-day operation of that business as described in Subsection 549.05, Subd. 30; and
- h) Traffic signs and/or signs erected by public officials in performance of official duties for the purpose of traffic control and public safety. Traffic signs are also exempt from size, setback and dynamic display regulations.

### **Signs prohibited.**

- a) Any sign located, designed or maintained in a manner which is likely to cause confusion or interfere with the visibility of traffic signs, traffic control devices, crossroads, driveways, crosswalks or pedestrian, bicycle or wheelchair accessible routes;
- b) Roof signs;
- c) Portable signs, except those listed exemptions in Section 549.09;
- d) Searchlights, beacons, strobe lights or other illuminated signs emitting a beam consisting of a collection or concentration of rays of light;
- e) Outdoor advertising signs;
- f) Stringers;
- g) Balloon signs; and
- h) Abandoned signs

**Please refer to Section 549 in the City Code for complete sign regulations at <http://www.richfieldmn.gov/zoningcode>**

**This is a guide to the most common questions and problems. It is not intended nor shall it be considered a complete set of requirements.**