



RESIDENTIAL SIGN REGULATIONS

Sign Permits are required for all signs over six square feet

This handout provides information to assist you in sign regulations for **single-family and multi-family residential areas** in Richfield, which includes institutions such as churches and schools

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 residential zoning districts, freestanding signs are permitted:

District	Maximum sign area of single sign	Maximum Height	Total area of all freestanding signs
R, R-1, MR-1	6 square feet	6 feet	12 square feet
MR-2, MR-3	24 square feet	8 feet	36 square feet
Permitted Non-residential Uses	50 square feet	20 feet	100 square feet

Within residential zoning districts, wall signs are permitted:

District	Maximum sign area of single sign
R, R-1, MR-1	Not permitted except as required by Sec. 549.21, Subd 3
MR-2, MR-3	10 percent of total wall area of the wall to which sign is attached
Permitted Non-residential Uses	10 percent of total wall area of the wall to which sign is attached

Within residential zoning districts, the following types of signs are prohibited:

- i. Dynamic displays, except for nonresidential uses; and
- ii. Marquee signs; and
- iii. Any sign not expressly permitted by this subdivision is prohibited in residential districts.

Scoreboards for public parks and public or private schools are permitted as follows:

- i. One (1) scoreboard not exceeding 18 feet in height or 100 square feet is surface area is allowed per playing field, not including fields used only for practice; and
- ii. Commercial or noncommercial speech shall be permitted on the score board as follows:
 1. Commercial and noncommercial messages shall not comprise more than 25 percent of the area of the scoreboard; and
 2. Commercial and noncommercial messages shall not be illuminated.

PLANNING & ZONING
 RICHFIELD COMMUNITY
 DEVELOPMENT
 DEPARTMENT

6700 PORTLAND AVE
 RICHFIELD, MN 55423

(612) 861-9760

www.cityofrichfield.gov

ZONING CODE
SECTIONS:

514.05 Subd. 8 (R)
518.05 Subd. 8 (R-1)

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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.