

Federal Way City Code (FWRC)
Title 19, Zoning and Development Code
Chapter 19.140, Signs

19.140.060 Exempt signs.

A sign permit is not required for the following signs or modifications to signs; provided, however, that such signs shall comply with all of the following requirements:

- (1) Address identification with numbers and letters not more than 10 inches in height.
- (2) Balloons no greater than 18 inches in diameter and no more than five balloons per display with a tether no longer than 36 inches. No more than two displays are permitted per site.
- (3) Barber poles.
- (4) Construction signs, so long as such signs are limited to two signs per project and each sign does not exceed 32 square feet per sign face and 10 feet in height. Construction signs shall not be displayed prior to issuance of a building permit and shall be removed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy. One “Coming Soon” or “Open During Construction” sign per site entrance is also permitted.
- (5) *Directional signs, on-site.* Each sign shall not exceed four square feet in sign area if the directional sign is indicating one direction and shall not exceed eight square feet in sign area if such sign is indicating more than one direction. Each sign may be no more than five feet in height. No more than two signs per street frontage are permitted for multi-tenant complexes. Single-tenant properties shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Center or complex names or logos shall not comprise more than 20 percent of the total sign area.
- (6) *Flags of any nation, government, educational institution, or noncommercial organization.* Decorative flags without corporate logos or other forms of advertising are also excluded from permit requirements. All flags must be a minimum size of five square feet unless it is a national or state flag and the official national or state flag is less than five square feet in size but not larger than 40 square feet in size.
- (7) *Fuel price signs.* Signs shall be located on the property where fuel is sold, shall be limited to one monument sign per street frontage not exceeding five feet in height and sign area shall not exceed 20 square feet per sign face.
- (8) Gravestones or other memorial displays associated with cemeteries or mausoleums.
- (9) Historical site plaques and signs integral to an historic building or site.
- (10) Holiday decorations displayed in conjunction with recognized holidays.
- (11) Incidental signs attached to a structure or building, providing that the total of all such signs per use or business shall not exceed two square feet.
- (12) Instructional signs that do not exceed six square feet in area per sign face.
- (13) Integral design features when such features are an essential part of the architecture of a building (including religious symbols) and when such features do not represent a product, service, or registered trademark.
- (14) Integral signs when no more than one per building.
- (15) Interior signs located completely within a building or structure and not intended to be visible from outside the structure, exclusive of window signs.
- (16) Menu board not to exceed 32 square feet per sign face and a maximum height of five feet (two permitted per site).
- (17) Nameplates not to exceed two square feet per sign face.

- (18) Nonblinking small string lights which are part of decoration to be used in association with landscaped areas and trees.
- (19) *Point of purchase displays.* Point of purchase signs are limited to two square feet in area and one sign per point of purchase. Such signs shall only display instructional or price information and shall not include copy pertaining to any special sale or promotion. Point of purchase display signs shall be permitted in conjunction with an outdoor use, activity, or storage as authorized under Chapter 19.125 FWRC.
- (20) Political signs so long as the maximum area per sign is limited to six square feet. No political sign shall be displayed later than seven calendar days after a final election.
- (21) *Private advertising signs.* The sign shall be limited to eight square feet per sign face and five feet in height, the sign must be immediately removed at the end of an event, use or condition, the sign must contain the address of the event or advertiser, and there shall be no more than six such signs advertising an event.
- (22) Private notice signs.
- (23) *Real estate signs.* Real estate signs shall be limited to one on-site sign per agent per street frontage or public entrance if no street frontage exists. For dwelling units, the area of the sign shall be no greater than six square feet per sign face. For other uses and developments, the size shall not exceed 32 square feet per sign face. All on-site real estate signs must be removed when the sale closes, or in the case of a rental or lease, when the tenant takes possession.
- (24) Temporary business signs for temporary business defined by FWRC 12.25.010; provided, however, that each licensed temporary business is only allowed two signs of 16 square feet per sign face. If only one sign is used, that sign may be 32 square feet per sign face.
- (25) Under-canopy signs not exceeding the width of the canopy and eight square feet in size; and provided, that a minimum separation exists between such signs equal to 20 lineal feet or more.
- (26) Warning signs.
- (27) Window signs not exceeding 25 percent of the window area only to advertise products, goods or services for sale on site, business identification, hours of operation, address, and emergency information.
- (28) Signs on sports field fences not exceeding 32 square feet per sign that are securely attached to the fence, are not protruding above the fence line, and are oriented to the interior of the field.
- (29) Portable signs located in the public right-of-way subject to the following standards:
- (a) Signs may not be affixed to the ground, including through the use of stakes or other means that may damage property;
 - (b) No more than two signs are allowed per event and no person may have more than two signs at any one time, except that 10 open house signs are allowed;
 - (c) Sign area shall neither exceed six square feet per sign face nor 36 inches in height;
 - (d) Signs are allowed only between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to sunset and must be removed each day;
 - (e) Signs may not be placed on or attached to other objects, including but not limited to buildings, structures, trees, plants, utility poles, utility boxes, utility equipment, or other signs;
 - (f) Signs shall not be located on the traveled portion of a roadway; in parking lanes; on sidewalks; in bicycle lanes; or placed in a manner that interferes with vehicle, bicycle, wheelchair, or pedestrian views or travel;
 - (g) Signs shall not be placed in street medians or street side planter strips; and
 - (h) Signs shall have a name and contact phone number or other contact information on them.

(Ord. No. 08-583, § 3(Exh. A), 10-21-08; Ord. No. 07-573, § 49, 12-4-07; Ord. No. 07-554, § 5(Exh. A(14)), 5-15-07; Ord. No. 06-523, § 3(Exh. A), 4-18-06; Ord. No. 05-487, § 3, 4-19-05; Ord. No. 05-486, § 3, 4-19-05; Ord. No. 99-357, § 5, 12-7-99; Ord. No. 99-348, § 5, 9-7-99. Code 2001 § 22-1599(d)(2).)