SIGN CODE

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17.446.010 Purpose
This section establishes sign regulations and a clear enforcement strategy, which support and complement land use objectives set forth in the Kitsap County Comprehensive Plan, because unregulated signs may constitute a public nuisance for the health, safety, convenience, aesthetics, and welfare of Kitsap County residents. Signs are necessary for public service and facilitate competitive commerce and industry. These sign standards and regulations establish a predictable review process for the use of signs that support the business community, community organizations, and public entities while also promoting the visual quality of Kitsap County and which may be promoted in community plans. The standards also promote safety and protect the general public from damage or injury caused by, or partially attributed to, the distractions, hazards, and obstructions which result from improperly designed or located signs. The following standards should not regulate the content on a sign, rather the standards should apply to the design and location of a sign.

17.446.020 Definitions
A-Frame Sign: A two panel sign made of wood, cardboard, plastic, or other lightweight and rigid material capable to stand on its own support(s) and is portable and movable. Also known as a sandwich board.

Abandoned Sign: A sign whose a) message does not correspond with the current building use; or b) a sign which does not promote a commercial product or event and the content of the sign pertains to a time, event or purpose which has elapsed or expired in the preceding 365 days.

Advertising Wind Sign: Single or double sided sign or device which flutters, waves, sparkles, or otherwise moves from the pressure of air movement in or around the sign used to promote a product or business.

Animation: A visual effect using seamless action, motion, light, or color changes through electrical or mechanical means.

Banner Sign: A sign made from fabric, vinyl, plastic, or other light weight and flexible materials tied or fastened to a stationary object.

Billboard: A large outdoor permanent commercial structure off-premise structure advertising products or services, typically found in high traffic areas such as alongside busy roads. Billboards present large advertisements to passing pedestrians and drivers.

Channel Sign: the use of bent metal or plastic to fashion channels in the shape of a letters or symbols and covered with a translucent plastic face, often a colored acrylic with lighting behind it.

Contrast: The difference or degree of difference in the appearance of adjacent surfaces, such as light and dark areas, different colors, or typefaces, and graphics appearing on various backgrounds.

Copy Area: That area which displays the primary copy and secondary copy on a sign.

County: Kitsap County, a political subdivision of the State of Washington.
**Construction Sign:** Signs denoting a building which is under construction, structural alterations, or repair, which announce the character of the building enterprise or the purpose for which the building is intended, including names of architects, engineers, contractors, developers, financiers, and others.

**Development Sign:** A construction sign denoting the architect, engineer, contractor, subcontractor, financier or sponsor of a residential or commercial development which may also designate the future occupant or use of the development.

**Department:** The Kitsap County Department of Community Development.

**Directional Sign:** Signs designed to provide direction to pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

**Electronic Sign:** A static sign capable of displaying words, symbols, figures or images that can be electronically or mechanically changed by remote or automatic means.

**Event Sign:** A sign posted to advertise a specific occurrence.

**Flashing:** A visual effect used on an Electronic Message Center to allow one message to disappear while it is simultaneously being replaced by another.

**Freestanding Sign:** A sign that is not attached to a building.

**Halo Lighting Effects:** Channel signs that project light behind them, causing the light to reflect off of the signs mounting surface creating a silhouette of the letter and/or symbol.

**Human Sign:** A sign carried, held, or supported by a person.

**Inflatable Sign (continuous inflation):** A sign that is a cold air inflated object, which may be of various shapes, made of flexible fabric, resting on the ground or structure and equipped with a portable blower motor that provides a constant flow of air into the device. Inflatable devices are restrained, attached, or held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method.

**Inflatable Sign (non-continuous inflation):** A sign that is inflated once, typically with a mixture of gases, which may be of various shapes and sizes and held in place by a cord, rope, cable or similar method.

**Internally Illuminated Sign:** A sign that has the light source enclosed within it so the source is not visible to the eye.

**Externally Illuminated Sign:** A sign illuminated by reflection of a light source aimed at its surface.

**Legal Non-conforming Sign:** A sign that was permitted, legally erected, and is maintained but does not conform to the current sign code.

**Legibility:** The physical attributes of a sign that allow for differentiation of its letters, words, numbers, or graphics, which directly relate to an observer’s visual acuity.
LAMIRD: Limited Areas of More Intense Rural Development are formally recognized areas within Kitsap County wherein land use intensity is greater than allowed by County zoning regulations. The two types of LAMIRDS existing in Kitsap County are:

1) **Type I**: (Keyport, Manchester, Port Gamble, Suquamish) The only type of LAMIRD currently designated in Kitsap County prior to 2010, this designation is characterized as infill development or redevelopment of existing commercial, industrial, residential, or mixed-use areas, whether as shoreline development, villages, hamlets, rural activity centers, or crossroads. Any industrial development within a Type 1 LAMIRD must be principally designed to serve the rural population. Any new development or redevelopment must be consistent with existing character of the area with respect to building size, scale, use, or intensity. Type 1 LAMIRDS must have been established as more densely developed areas as of July 1990, and they must include pre-GMA existing development. Type 1 LAMIRDS also must be bounded by a “logical outer boundary” that mirrors the limits of the pre-existing development.

2) **Type III**: (12 Trees and Rural Employment Centers) Includes intensification of or new development of lots for isolated cottage industries and isolated small-scale businesses. Residential development is prohibited. Type III LAMIRDS need not principally serve the rural population, but should provide job opportunities for rural residents. Expansion or new development must conform with the rural character of the area as defined by the local government. Public services and public facilities must be limited to those that are the minimum necessary to serve the industry or business.

Navigational Sign: Water based wayfinding signs as identified by the United States adopted Aids to Navigation (U.S. ATONS).

Name Plate: A sign used to identify and display the name of a person, product, or place.

Off-Premise Sign: An outdoor sign whose message directs attention to something that is not sold, produced, manufactured, furnished, or conducted at the property upon which the sign is located.

On-Premise Sign: A sign whose message and design relates to an individual business, profession, product, service, event, point of view, or other commercial or non-commercial activity sold, offered, or conducted on the same property where the sign is located.

Organization: An entity, including a natural person, which owns, operates, or maintains the sign.

Permanent Sign: A sign attached to a building or structure, or to the ground in a manner that enables the sign to resist environmental loads, such as wind, and that precludes ready removal or movement of the sign and whose intended use appears to be indefinite.

Political Sign: A sign providing information relating to a local, state, or national election, initiative, or referendum.

Primary Street Frontage: The lot line where the main visual entrance to the property is located.
Public Right-of-Way (ROW): All property in which the county has any form of real property interest, and which is held for public road, shoulder, and sidewalk purposes, regardless of whether or not any road exists thereon or whether or not it is used, improved, or maintained for public travel.

Reader board: A sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols change either automatically though electrical or electronic means (for example, time and temperature units), or manually though placement of letters or symbols on a panel mounted in or on a track system.

Real Estate Sign: A sign advertising the real property upon which the sign is located for rent, for lease, or for sale and providing the name and location of the owner or his agent.

Rotating Sign: A sign wherein the faces or portions of a sign face which mechanically revolve around a central axis.

Scrolling: A mode of message transition on an Electronic Message Display where the message appears to move vertically across the display surface.

Sign: Any device, structure, fixture, painting, visual image or logos associated with the business using words, graphics, symbols, numbers, or letters designed and used for the purpose of communicating a message or attracting attention.

Signage: An organization’s signs collectively used to communicate information or attract attention.

Storefront Facade: The side of a building facing the street. The storefront width is measured from the walls of the structure, within which houses an organization. The height is measured from the finished grade to the top of storefront vertical wall. See Figure 1c: Attached Sign Coverage Ratio Example.

Temporary Sign: Any sign intended to remain in use for a short period of time which is not permanently installed.

Traffic Control Sign: Any control device that is intended to communicate specific information to road users through a word, symbol, and/or arrow legend.

Unconventional Sign: Statues, structural forms, or other items related to business attraction which are not identified in this code.

Warning Sign: A sign that indicates a particular hazard, obstacle, or condition that may not be readily apparent.
17.446.030 Permitting

Prior to installation of a new permanent on-premise or off-premise sign or modification of an existing sign that deviates from its originally permitted appearance or structure, an applicant shall obtain a permit from the Kitsap County Department of Community Development, unless the sign is identified as exempt (see 17.446.050) or conditionally exempt (see 17.446.060).

1) Permit Application: A permit application is required for the placement or modification of a sign unless otherwise exempted herein. The document must include all information necessary to determine whether a sign meets all criteria to acquire a permit. Freestanding signs shall require a dimensioned site plan as part of the submittal document, see Figure 1a: Dimension Site Plan Example. A licensed professional entity is recommended, but is not required, to prepare the dimensioned site plan.

2) Fees: All applications for permits or requests for actions by the county shall be accompanied by a filing fee in an amount established by county resolution.

3) Permit Expiration: If the permitted sign is not constructed to completion prior to the 365th day from the day of the original permit the permit shall expire and a new permit application is required.

4) Permit Placard: A permit placard issued by the Department shall be issued to the applicant. The permit placard must be attached to the sign or available upon inspection.

5) Internal Consistency: In the event of conflict with other sign requirements that may be applicable (state or federal), the more restrictive shall apply.

6) Sign Revision: Should a conflict arise between the prior conditions of land use approval and the code herein, a sign permit application shall be reviewed in accordance with the appropriate land use procedures under Title 21 KCC.

7) A permit is not needed when changing of the text or image on a sign, where the sign’s structural size or shape is not changing. Repainting, maintenance, and repair of existing signs or sign structures; provided, no structural change is made. Off-premise repairs are allowed if the sign is returned to its pre-removal location in its originally permitted state.

Figure 1a: Dimensioned Site Plan Example
17.446.040 Prohibited Signs

Unless otherwise exempt or conditionally exempt under this chapter, the following signs shall be prohibited:

1) Off-premise signs unless specifically pursuant to sections 17.446.050 Exempt or 17.446.060 Conditionally Exempt.

2) Signs or sign structures which resemble or conflict with, or are attached to, a utility pole or traffic control sign.

3) Signs or sign structures which create a safety hazard by obstructing the line of sight of pedestrians or vehicular traffic, or which obstruct a clear view of official signs or signals as determined by Kitsap County.

4) Signs or sign structures, located in traffic roundabouts, islands, or medians.

5) Signs or sign structures located within 30 feet from intersecting Kitsap County right-of-way lines, see Figure 1a: Dimensioned Site Plan Example.

6) Signs or sign structures which obstruct access to drives, doors, walks, windows, fire escapes or fire escape routes.

7) Signs, temporary or otherwise, affixed to a tree.

8) Signs placed on public property, including Kitsap County right-of-way, except when authorized by the appropriate public agency or specifically authorized in this sign code.

9) Electronic signs outside Urban Growth Areas.

10) Abandoned or un-maintained signs.

11) Stationary or mobile billboards.

12) Signs with animation, flashing, or fluttering lights.

13) Rotating signs.

14) Audible signs, except as mandated or encouraged by the American Disability Act.

15) Advertising wind signs; except flags identified as conditionally exempt.

16) Banner or continuous inflatable or non-continuous inflatable signs not associated with a special event.

17) Signs placed on a vehicle or trailer to purposefully gain additional signage which would otherwise not be allowed. This does not prohibit the identification of a business or its products on a vehicle or trailer included in the operations of the business.

18) In the Kingston Urban Growth Area a) except for halo lighted signs, internally illuminated signs in the Old Town/Waterfront or Village Green districts as defined in the Kingston Sub-Area Plan and b) mounted or freestanding reader board signs.

19) In Limited Area of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRD) a) internally illuminated signs b) neon signs or c) electronic signs.

20) Electronic signs in Old Town district Silverdale as defined in the Silverdale Sub-Area Design Standards.
17.446.050 Exempt Signs

A sign or modification to an existing sign shall be exempt from review under this sign code and may be constructed without a permit:

1) Historic site markers or plaques, gravestones, and address numbers.
2) Signs required by law, including but not limited to:
   a) Official or legal notices issued and posted by any public agency or court; or
   b) Traffic directional or warning signs.
3) Seasonal or Holiday decorations that do not function as signage.
4) Plaques, tablets or inscriptions indicating the name of a building, date of erection, or other commemorative information, which are an integral part of the building structure or are attached flat to the face of the building, which are non-illuminated, and which do not exceed 4 square feet in surface area.
5) Religious symbols as recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration affairs religious symbol list.
6) On-premise directional signs less than 4 square feet.
7) Garage sale, estate sale, or other temporary signs for similar events less than 4 square feet.
8) Legal informational signs less than 4 square feet (i.e., No Trespassing or No Fireworks).
9) Residence identification signs (i.e., 1234 Road Name: The Smiths).
10) Information signs erected and maintained by the state, county or any city.
11) On-premise window or door signs indicating business hours of operation or when a business is open or closed. These signs may be static electronic signs regardless of where the business is located. The size cannot exceed 4 square feet.
17.446.060 Conditionally Exempt Signs

A temporary sign shall be conditionally exempt from this sign code and may be constructed, without permits unless otherwise noted, if consistent with the size, height, duration, maximum number limitations, and other criteria listed below. Unless expressly stated, conditionally exempt signs are not allowed to be lighted, conflict with or impede views of permanent signs or signals, or be located in Kitsap County right-of-way or publically-owned property pursuant to prohibited sign section 17.446.040.

1) A-Frame Sign:

   a) Only 1 A-frame sign, not associated with a special event, is allowed to be displayed during business hours per organization. The sign shall have 2 faces and not exceed 3 feet in height or width, or exceed a total of 6 square feet per sign face.

   b) An A-frame sign shall be an on-premise sign and not impede vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian circulation.

2) Arm Sign:

   a) Permanent and temporary arm signs provided that the sign conforms to the sign detail sheet (Sign Detail Sheet: Arm Sign).

3) Window Sign:

   a) Permanent and temporary window signs provided that the sign conforms to the sign detail sheet (Sign Detail Sheet: Window Sign).

4) Flags:

   a) Provided the flag is attached to a permanent flag pole or side of a building. A permit may be required to erect a flag pole pursuant to 2009 International Building Code Section 1609.1.1 Determination of Wind Loads and Section 105 Permits.”

5) Political sign:

   a) A political sign is allowed in Kitsap County right-of-way provided that a sign:

      i) Using metal faces, metal supports, metal frames, or wire frames is prohibited

      ii) Is limited to a size no greater than 4 square feet and may not extend higher than 40 inches measured from the point in which it is placed in the ground to the top of the sign and

      iii) Shall be removed 10 days after an election. After primary elections, political campaign signs endorsing a successful candidate may remain up to ten days after the succeeding general election.

   b) Political campaign sign(s) are allowed on private property and may express a property owner’s endorsement of a political candidate or ballot issue provided that

      i) Political campaign signs are limited to a maximum size of thirty-two square feet, and

      ii) Political campaign signs on private property must be removed within ten days after an election. After primary elections, political campaign signs endorsing a successful candidate may remain up to ten days after the succeeding general election.

6) On-premise directional signs:

   a) Exit, entrance, or other on-site traffic directional signs are permitted. The maximum height of any directional sign shall be 36 inches, and the maximum area shall be 9 square feet. No text shall be larger than the directional language text.

7) Community sign placed by Kitsap County:
a) A community sign is exempt provided that the community and Kitsap County enter a written agreement wherein the community assumes ownership and responsibility for any and all installation, maintenance, repairs, and content of the sign, and conforms to sign policies developed for the particular community sign.

8) Special event A-Frame, banner, double post, inflatable, or wall sign:
   a) All special event signs shall be registered with the County, placed no more than fourteen (14) days prior to the event occurrence, and removed 5 days after the event has occurred. Registration for a period of time is allowed for multiple events of the same type (ie. Farmers market every Saturday between March 1 and August 31).
   b) Four (4) A-Frame signs are allowed per special event in addition to a banner, double post, inflatable, or wall sign and shall be allowed within the Kitsap County right-of-way, sizing to be consistent with 17.446.060 (1)(a). A-frame signs in the ROW:
      i) An A-frame sign shall not impede public vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian circulation.
      ii) Attachments, including balloons, shall not be placed on signs.
      iii) Symbols and directional arrows shall be used as the first order of preference in sign design to minimize wording and enhance safety and legibility
      iv) Wire or metal stakes shall not be utilized to secure signs within the County right-of-way. Where anchoring is utilized to stabilize signs within the Kitsap County right-of-way, sandbags shall be used.
   c) Banner or wall signs shall be no more than 100 square feet.
   d) Inflatable signs flown more than 20 feet in elevation measured from finished grade shall be required to obtain a sign permit.
   e) Special event double pole signs shall be no greater than 32 square feet and must not exceed 8 feet in height as measured from the finished grade.

9) Human sign:
   a) A human sign shall not obstruct public bicycle lanes or public sidewalks.

10) Roadside memorial sign:
    a) Provided that it meets Kitsap County Public Works Roads and Traffic Roadside Memorial Policy 300.5.

11) Agricultural and Farm Stand Signage Program:
    a) In order to qualify for this exemption, participating businesses shall register via the on-line sign exemption form at: http://permits.kitsapgov.com/Public/Home
    b) Up to four off-premise A-frame signs shall be allowed within the Kitsap County right-of-way, sizing to be consistent with 17.446.060 (1)(a), with the sellers name and contact info on back. A-frame signs in the ROW:
       i) An A-frame sign shall not impede public vehicular, bicycle, or pedestrian circulation.
       ii) Attachments, including balloons, shall not be placed on signs.
       iii) Signs shall maintain a 200-foot setback when approaching an intersection or a yellow and black county warning sign.
iv) Symbols and directional arrows shall be used as the first order of preference in sign design to minimize wording and enhance safety and legibility.

v) Wire or metal stakes shall not be utilized to secure signs within the County right-of-way. Where anchoring is utilized to stabilize signs within the Kitsap County right-of-way, sandbags shall be used.

c) A farm stand sign is exempt provided the sign does not exceed 6 square feet.

d) A farm identification sign may be a year-round arm sign located on the premises, on or adjacent to an easement road leading to the farm, as allowed with written consent from all easement owners. The arm sign shall conform to Sign Detail Sheet: Arm Sign requirements.

12) Real Estate Signage Program:

a) All real estate signs must have the agent’s name and phone number on any and all types of real estate signs. The name and phone number is not required to be visible to the public. All real estate signs shall be removed within 5 days of the date of sale.

b) For a single-family residential property, one unlighted on-site arm sign is allowed in addition to one attached special event banner sign on the subject property and easement leading to the property for sale.

c) On-site development “for sale” shall be limited to 1 sign per development entrance. The sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in area, and shall not exceed 8 feet in height. A sign permit is required and shall be issued for a 1 year period. The permit is renewable annually for up to a maximum of 3 years.

d) On-site “for rent” shall be limited to 1 sign per development entrance. The sign shall not exceed 12 square feet in area, and shall not exceed 8 feet in height.

e) Open House Events: A maximum of 4 off-premise arrow signs, A-frame signs, or combination thereof may be used to promote open house events, per property for sale or subdivision. Such signs shall be permitted only when the agent or seller is in attendance at the property for sale or rent and may be located on the right-of-way outside of vehicular and bicycle lanes and sidewalks.

f) Off-premise signs advertising subdivisions placed by real estate companies shall require a one year permit. The permit may be renewed annually for up to 3 years provided that no sign maintenance violations occur in the previous year. The sign shall be no more than 12 square feet and directional only. A letter of consent from the property owner shall be required as part of sign permit approval.
17.446.070 Regulations for Permanent Signs

1) **Sign Types:** For the purposes of this sign code there are 2 types of permanent signs: freestanding and attached. See sign type detail specification sheets, 17.446.100, for individual sign type requirements.

2) **Quantity:** An organization may place 1 on-site freestanding sign per street frontage in addition to attached signage. One additional freestanding sign is permitted for each additional 200 feet of street frontage over 100 feet of street frontage. There is no limit to the number of attached building signs, provided the maximum aggregated sign area coverage is not exceeded.

3) **Master Sign Plan:** A master sign plan shall be required or allowed pursuant to section 17.446.090.

4) **Attached Signage Total Area:** Attached signs a) may have an aggregated area that shall not exceed 2 square feet for each 1 lineal foot of building facade width except when 17.446.100 Sign Detail Sheet: Wall Sign indicates otherwise, b) shall not exceed 100 square feet in area, except it may exceed the maximum if the total sign area is less than 10 percent of the total storefront area and except when 17.446.100 Sign Detail Sheet: Wall Sign indicates otherwise. Attached signs shall have a maximum aggregated area of 100 square feet for all building signs attached to a single building (see Figure 1b. Attached Signage Total Area Example).

5) **Sign Illumination:** The artificial illumination of signs shall be designed to minimize negative impacts on surrounding properties.
   a) Signs located within residential areas in Urban Growth Areas and signs located outside Urban Growth Areas (UGA) or Type III Limited Areas of More Intense Rural Development (LAMIRDs) including schools, churches, government, and quasi government shall not be illuminated after 10pm. Signs shall include down cast lighting and not be illuminated before 6am.
   b) External light sources shall be shielded and direct illumination towards the sign only.
   c) Light sources shall utilize energy-efficient fixtures wherever feasible.
   d) Pursuant to section 17.455.110 Lighting is to be directed away from adjoining properties. Not more than 1 foot candle of illumination may leave the property boundaries.

6) **Relationship to Buildings:** Signs shall be designed to incorporate the overall architectural style and at least one of the predominant visual elements of the organization’s building or buildings, including, but not exclusive to, the type of construction materials, color, or geometric forms.

7) **Landscaping:** Freestanding sign applications shall include landscaping in the dimensioned site plan, see Figure 1a: Dimensioned Site Plan Example. Landscaping shall include ground cover or shrubs which accent the sign while not blocking sign lettering or symbols used for recognition. Identification of plant species is not required in the site plan. Native, water-wise plantings are encouraged.

8) **Setbacks:** Freestanding signs, excluding arm signs, shall be setback a distance of 30 feet from intersecting Kitsap County right-of-way lines pursuant to section 17.446.040 Prohibited Signs or a distance of 5 feet measured from the property line, whichever is greater. The nearest sign edge measurement includes cantilevering sign edges.
Width is measured from the walls of the structure.
Height is measured from the finished grade to the highest point of the building’s vertical wall.
Attached sign area is measured pursuant to Measurement Calculation Methods 17.446.070(9)(b).
Allowable Attached Sign Total Area for this example is 2 square feet per lineal foot of frontage, see wall sign detail sheet to determine exact square footage allowed. If the area allowed from the initial calculation is less than 10 percent of the building area façade, the sign area may be increased to reach 10 percent of the building area façade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Store Name 1</th>
<th>ASA1: ((A1a + A1b) = 2 * (W1a + W1b)) or 10 percent of the building façade area (= 0.10 * (W1a * H1a) + (W1b * H1b))</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Store Name 2</td>
<td>ASA2: ((A2) = 2 * (W2)) or 10 percent of the building façade area (= 0.10 * (W2 * H2))</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store Name 3</td>
<td>ASA3: ((A3) = 2 * (W3)) or 10 percent of the building façade area (= 0.10 * (W3 * H3))</td>
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<tr>
<td>Store Name 4: A large storefront with multiple businesses within it, such as a grocery store with an associated drug store and coffee store all located and operating in the same building space.</td>
<td>ASA4: ((A4) = 2 * (W1a + W1b + W2 + W3)) or 10 percent of the building façade area (= 0.10 * [(W1a * H1a) + (W1b * H1b) + (W2 * H2) + (W3 * H3)])</td>
</tr>
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Figure 1b: Attached Sign Total Area Example
9) **Measurement Calculations:**

a) Freestanding sign height shall be measured as the largest dimension from the highest point of the sign to where the sign intersects with the finished grade, see Figure 1b: Attached Sign Coverage Ratio Example.

b) Measurement of the copy area is inclusive to all attributes in and around the sign not immediately related to the structure on which it is attached.

c) Simple geometric shapes (rectangles, triangles, circles, ovals etc.) shall be used in combination to measure odd or complex text or graphics as seen in Figure 1c: Copy Area Calculation Method.

![Diagram](image.png)

**Figure 1c: Copy Area Calculation Method**
17.446.080 Regulations for Electronic Signs

Electronic signs are prohibited outside Urban Growth Areas (UGA’s). Notwithstanding Section 17.446.070 (5) Illumination requirements, the following illumination requirements shall apply:

1) **Hold Time:** The digital message or static image shall remain on the display for a minimum of **30 minutes if the sign is located in business zones of an UGA, and a minimum of 24 hours in any other location where an electronic sign is allowed.**

2) **Transition Method:** A transition between messages shall be executed with a minimum fade in and out time of **10 seconds.**

3) **Illumination Levels:** Electronic signs shall incorporate photocell/light sensors, with automatic dimming technology that appropriately adjusts to ambient light conditions. Displays shall have a brightness level of no greater than 0.3 foot candles above ambient light conditions or shall maintain accordance with 17.446.070 (5)(d), whichever is more restrictive. An affidavit showing compliance consent shall be required with the sign application.

4) **Maintenance:** Any permitted electronic changeable message sign that malfunctions, fails, or ceases to operate in its usual or normal programmed manner shall be repaired or disconnected within 5 days by the owner or operator of the sign. Unless proven to be mechanical failure through no fault of the sign owner, electronic signs found to be in violation of the sign illumination requirements may be subject to code enforcement citations and penalties pursuant to Kitsap County code.
**17.446.090 Master Sign Plan**

1) To achieve a more consistent and coordinated signage pattern a master sign plan shall be required for all new, nonresidential developments of three or more separate tenant spaces who either a) share the same parcel or structure or b) use common access and parking facilities. A master sign plan may be allowed for developments of three or more separate tenant spaces that do not share the same parcel or structure.

2) An organization may place one on-site freestanding sign per street frontage in addition to attached signage. One additional freestanding monument sign is permitted for each additional 150 feet of street frontage over 100 feet of street frontage. The plan shall meet the following criteria:
   a) No one business may comprise more than 50 square feet of each sign face.
   b) No additional monument signs may be allowed within the master sign plan regardless of additional existing or proposed accesses.

3) An application for master sign plan must include the following submittals:
   a) Signature of all property owners within the master sign plan boundaries.
   b) A master sign plan is required to include the size, location and configuration of all proposed and/or previously approved signage.
   c) The master sign plan shall identify the number of tenants to be represented in the sign plan.
   d) The master sign plan shall include a strategy to provide signage for future tenant changes or increase in number above the original number of tenants identified in 17.446.090 (3)(c). The strategy shall identify how signage will change to maintain conformance with the Sign Code when the master sign plan is approved.
   e) A master sign plan must be approved through a Type III process consistent with the requirements of Title 21 of this code. All signage approved through a previous performance based development, conditional use permit, variance or other approval that allowed greater sign quantities, square footage or configurations than allowed by this chapter must be amended to conform to the current Sign Code regulations. Revisions to previously approved master sign plans shall be treated as a Type III Process.
### Arm Sign: Definition

A sign attached to 1 or 2 freestanding post(s), with the faces of the sign generally projecting perpendicular to the public right-of-way.

### Size

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>36 in. max. A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>48 in. max. B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Copy Area (B x A)</td>
<td>6 sf. max.</td>
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<td>Home Businesses within Urban Growth Area Boundaries: 4 sf. max.</td>
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### Location

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Height</td>
<td>6.5 ft. max. D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setback (measured from the closest edge to the property line)</td>
<td>3 ft. min.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Allowed in the following zones

- All Zones

### Miscellaneous

Arm signs shall be registered with Kitsap County.
17.446.100 SIGN DETAIL SHEET: AWNING SIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Awning Sign: Definition</th>
<th>Size (continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A sign located on a building mounted shade structure that provides additional functionality as shelter.</td>
<td>Sloping Plane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowed in the following zones</td>
<td>Copy Area: 25% coverage max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Zones</td>
<td>Valance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>Letter Height: 80% of valance height, 16 in. max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projecting</td>
<td>Letter Width: 75% of valance width max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign Area: Two(2) sf. per linear ft of shopfront max.</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Height: 16 in. max.</td>
<td>Clear Height: 8 ft. min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter Thickness: 6 in. max.</td>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vinyl or plastic awnings are discouraged in this code.
17.446.100 SIGN DETAIL SHEET: BLADE SIGN

Blade Sign: Definition
A building mounted sign projecting 12 inches or more perpendicular to the building, or hung parallel to the building eve, with a maximum area of 10 square feet allowed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Allowance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copy Area (B X C)</td>
<td>8 sf. max. A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width</td>
<td>36 in. max. B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>36 in. max. C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thickness</td>
<td>10 in. max. D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special and creative signs that have a three dimensional quality may have a greater thickness subject to approval by the director.

Location
- Clear Height: 8 ft min. E
- Projection: 5 ft max. F
- Number: 1 per storefront max.

Miscellaneous
- The area of a blade sign shall be included in the collaborative storefront coverage ratio.
- All exposed edges of the sign should be finished.
Canopy Sign: Definition
A sign located on the edge of a freestanding canopy.

Allowable in the following zones
Commercial and Industrial Zones Only

Size
Width: 25% of canopy edge, max.  
Height: 75% of canopy edge, max.

Miscellaneous
A clearance height notification will not be calculated into the copy area.
The sign shall not extend beyond the edge of the canopy more than 8 inches.
Signage shall only be allowed on three faces of the canopy.
17.446.100 SIGN DETAIL SHEET: MONUMENT SIGN

**Monument Sign: Definition**
A free-standing sign, generally having a low monolithic profile where the base of the sign structure is on the ground or a maximum of twelve (12) inches above the lowest point of the ground adjacent to the sign such that the sign has the appearance of a solid base.

**Application**
Typically used in entrances for single or multiple commercial or industrial tenants.

**Allowable in the following zones**
All zones

**Allowed Size By Zone**

| Zones: BC, BP, I, RI, HTC, RC, MU, RCO, REC, TTEC, Any zone within a Type III LAMIRD URS, Kingston HTC, Kingston MU, SVC, RHTC, RHTW, MVC, KVC, UVC, UCR, SLH, UM, UH, NC |
|---|---|
| Width: B | 15 ft. max. | 10 ft. max. |
| Height: C | 12 ft. max. | 8 ft. max. |
| Sign Area (B x C): | Per face 100 sf. max. | Per face 50 sf. max. |
### 17.446.100 SIGN DETAIL SHEET: POLE SIGN

#### Pole Sign: Definition
A freestanding sign supported by one or more structural elements that are either: (a) architecturally dissimilar to the design of the sign; or (b) less than 1/4 the width of the sign face.

#### Miscellaneous
A pole sign shall only be used if no other feasible freestanding sign alternative exists and only when variances cannot be used. The sign cannot be used to increase visibility beyond a reasonable reach.

#### Allowed Size By Zone

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zones: BC, BP, I, RI, HTC, RC, MU, RCO, REC, TTEC, Any zone within a Type III LAMIRD</th>
<th>URS, Kingston HTC, Kingston MU, SVC, RHTC, RHTW, MVC, KVC, UVC, UCR, SLH, UM, UH, NC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Copy Area: A</td>
<td>70% coverage max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width: B</td>
<td>10 ft. max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height: C</td>
<td>10 ft. max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign Area (B x C):</td>
<td>Per face 100 sf. max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign Height: D</td>
<td>The lesser of roof height or 20 ft. max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearance Height: E</td>
<td>8 ft. min.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 17.446.100 SIGN DETAIL SHEET: ROOF SIGN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Roof Sign: Definition</strong></th>
<th><strong>Size (continued)</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A building-mounted sign erected upon, against, or over the roof of the building.</td>
<td>Height (Pitched Roof): 50% of the distance between the roofline and top of eave as measured in an elevation drawing, 5ft max.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Allowable in the following zones</strong></th>
<th><strong>Location</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All zones</td>
<td>Pitched Roof</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size</strong></td>
<td>The sign’s center point must be located at or below the midpoint of the roof as seen in an elevation drawing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign Area (B x C): 3 sf per linear foot of shopfront, 100 sf max.</td>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width: 50% of storefront width, max.</td>
<td>A roof sign shall only be used if no other feasible attached sign alternative exists and only when variances cannot be used. The sign cannot be used to increase visibility beyond a reasonable reach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height (Flat Roof): 12 in. min; 3 ft max.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Diagram of a roof sign](image)
### Wall Sign: Definition

A building-mounted sign which is either attached to, displayed, or painted on an exterior wall in a manner parallel with the wall surface, and not projecting more than 12 inches from such surface.

### Miscellaneous

The copy area of a wall sign shall not extend into architectural features such as windows, eves, cornices, and rooflines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Allowed Size By Zone</th>
<th>Zones: BC, BP, I, RI, HTC, RC, MU, RCO, REC, TTEC, Any zone within a Type III LAMIRD</th>
<th>URS, Kingston HTC, Kingston MU, SVC, RHTC, RHTW, MVC, KVC, UVC, UCR, SLH, UM, UH, NC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sign Area: (B x C)+D</td>
<td>A  3 square feet for each linear foot of storefront facade, 200 sf. max.</td>
<td>2 square feet for each linear foot of storefront facade, 150 sf. max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width: B</td>
<td>75% storefront width, max.</td>
<td>75% storefront width, max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height: C</td>
<td>8 ft. max.</td>
<td>5 ft. max.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graphic or Logo: D</td>
<td>A sign with only a graphic or logo is subject to the maximum sizes defined by A, B, and C of the wall sign type.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projection from Facade</td>
<td>12 in. max</td>
<td>12 in. max</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
17.446.100 SIGN DETAIL SHEET: WINDOW SIGN

**Window Sign: Definition**
A sign that is painted on, attached to, or suspended directly behind a window, the glass portion of a door, or a space providing visual access to the interior of a building (i.e., open garage bays).

**Size**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign Area (B x C): Per Window</th>
<th>Permanent Signage, 50% max. Temporary Signage, 25% max.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Miscellaneous**
Applied plastic or vinyl cut letters are discouraged.

**Allowable in the following zones**

All Zones
17.446.110 Sign Maintenance
All signs must be maintained in a condition as originally permitted. Maintenance shall include landscaping, electrical, material blemishes, structural deficiencies, or other sign conditions changing the visual quality of the sign through neglect. Failure to maintain a sign may result in penalties and permit revocation. Violation procedures and penalty fee schedules shall refer to Kitsap County Code.

17.446.120 Non-conforming Signs
Notwithstanding KCC Chapter 17.530 Enforcement, the continued existence of lawfully established and permitted non-conforming signs shall be subject to the following:

1) No sign previously erected in violation of any code provision, including without securing proper permit approval, shall be considered a legal non-conforming sign.

2) Legal non-conforming signs are subject to the sign maintenance requirements of this chapter.

3) A legal non-conforming sign may be structurally altered if the degree of non-conformance is decreased by 25% or greater relative to its original non-conforming state. For purposes of this subsection, normal maintenance, repair, or content change shall not be considered a structural alteration.

4) Any legal nonconforming sign which a) does not promote a commercial product or event and the content of the sign pertains to a time, event or purpose which has elapsed or expired in the preceding 365 days; or b) is discontinued for a period of 365 consecutive days, without written notice to the Kitsap County Department of Community Development of intent to continue use, shall be deemed abandoned and shall not, thereafter, be reestablished, except in full conformance with this chapter.

5) Any legal non-conforming sign damaged or destroyed to the extent that 75% of the sign must be repaired may not be restored, and any further signage must conform to this chapter.

6) Government actions, strikes, material shortages, natural disasters, acts of God, and all natural phenomena whose effects could not be prevented by the exercise of reasonable care and foresight, may not be considered in calculating the length of discontinuance, damage, or destruction for purposes of this section. A report from an official investigative organization with the damage or destruction determination, including but not exclusive to insurance and/or police reports, must be provided in order to restore a sign to its most recent non-compliant state of existence.

7) Amortization. All legal nonconforming signs shall be discontinued and removed or made conforming on or before ten years from the initial adoption of this section, i.e., __________, 2015. If subsequent amendments to this section render a sign legally nonconforming, the sign shall be discontinued and removed or made conforming within ten years after the effective date of such amendment (collectively the “amortization period”). Upon the expiration of the amortization period, the sign shall be brought into conformance with this section, including obtaining a permit, or
be removed. Failure to remove a nonconforming sign by the timeline established above shall result in enforcement action being taken pursuant to Kitsap County Code. Any legal nonconforming sign that does not meet the requirements of this section shall immediately lose its legal nonconforming designation.

17.446.130 Contractor License

In accordance with Table 1b. Required Contractor License by Sign Type, a permanent sign shall not be erected, altered, relocated, constructed, or maintained by any person who does not hold a valid contractor's license. All electric signs shall be constructed according to the technical standards of a certified testing laboratory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sign Type</th>
<th>Contractor License Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arm</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awning</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blade</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canopy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monument</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pole</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roof</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall Mural</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17.446.140 Variances

Notwithstanding Section 17.500 Variances, a variance will be granted as a Type II decision, Notwithstanding KCC Section 21.04.210(C)(1)(c), requests for sign variances outside a UGA shall require notification to owners of property within 1000 feet of the subject of the variance. Variances may be granted only when all of the following conditions and facts exist:

1) There are special circumstances applicable to the subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, that were not created by the applicant and do not apply generally to other property in the same vicinity or zone.
2) Such variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right or use of the applicant possessed by the owners of other properties in the same vicinity or zone.
3) No other feasible signage alternative exists.
4) The authorization of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property in the vicinity or zone in which property is located.
5) Variance does not allow for deviations from design requirements herein.
6) The variance is the minimum necessary to grant relief to the applicant.
The County may impose conditions on the variance, as necessary, to further the purpose of the sign code and other applicable county codes or ordinances.

17.446.150 Violations
Notwithstanding Section 17.530 Enforcement, any unapproved signs that are placed in violation of this ordinance on public property, including County right of way, or that interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic will be subject to removal by County staff or their agents, marked and placed in a retrieval yard for the first offense, or disposed of if the first offense mark was applied in a prior incident. Repeat violators may be charged for sign removal.