

Simple Guide to Signage in Iredell County

The purpose of regulations that mandate signs is to ensure persons and businesses shall be treated equally while ensuring that the public health, safety and welfare are protected. These regulations for signs have the following specific purposes.

1. To ensure that signs are designed, constructed, installed and maintained so that the public safety and traffic safety are not compromised.
2. To allow and promote positive conditions for sign communications while at the same time avoiding nuisances to nearby properties and promoting an attractive environment.
3. To reflect and support the desired character and development patterns of the various zoning districts.
4. To allow for adequate and effective signs in commercial and industrial zones while preventing signs from dominating the appearance of the area.
5. To ensure that the constitutionally guaranteed right of free speech is protected.

Before putting up a sign for your business make sure you have reviewed the check list.

1. Know your zoning district. (see chart)
2. Decided whether your signage will be temporary and/or permanent.
3. Determine the size and placement of your sign.
4. Identify if the sign will be internally or externally illuminated.

There is a difference between signs that are attached to a building and those that are not attached but still located on a property. There are several types of these signs.

1. Window signs (they are NOT regulated)
2. Wall signs (see zoning size chart)
3. Monument signs that can be placed on the street front. One monument is allowed for each street front.
4. It is to be noted that a sign in the vicinity of interstate 40/77 is allowed, as long as it is placed 1,000ft away.

When dealing with more than one tenant in a building, there are several standards regarding signs.

1. Each tenant is allowed to have a separate sign placed on their own wall.
2. However, each tenant is NOT may not have their own monument sign. Each tenant must be incorporated onto one monument sign. (Preexisting signs will have separate tenant panels. When a business is no longer present, a new panel will replace the old).

Getting approval on a sign cost \$25 per sign and takes about one day. If the approval is denied you may appeal the decision with the Board of Adjustment.

Prohibited Signs

The following signs shall not be permitted in any district:

1. Signs with flashing, moving, rotating, pulsating or glaring parts, included LED signs not specifically authorized by this code except for time and temperature;
2. String of lights, pennants, strings and loops of strings or ribbons, garlands, search lights, beacons, paper posters applied directly to a wall, pole, fence or building surface, and banners and streamers, are prohibited, except as allowed as a temporary sign in and for vehicle sales lots where ninety-five percent of the inventory is located outdoors, subject to issuance of a temporary use permit and payment of applicable fees;
3. Signs containing obscene messages, scenes or graphic, or false or misleading advertising or information.
4. Signs placed on vehicles or trailers that are parked or located for the primary purpose of displaying said sign;
5. Any sign on which the illuminating or lighting device is so placed as to reflect or shine directly into the adjacent highways or streets in such a manner as to hamper the vision of a motor vehicle operator thereon;
6. Roof signs, except mansard roofs
7. Business, company, or other non-governmental flags displayed on roof-mounted poles;
8. New billboards

Permitted Sign Standards by Zoning District

Zoning District	Type of Sign	Structural Type	Maximum Number of Signs	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Height	Additional Regulations
O-1 (Commercial)	On-premise sign	Monument	1 per street front	32sq.ft. per sign face or 40sq.ft. with approved master sign plan	6 ft. monument	Permit required 5ft. minimum setback from right-of-way. No internal illumination
O-1 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall sign, awning, marquee, or projecting sign	Any number of signs not to exceed max. total sign area except not more than 1 projecting	10% of each street façade not to exceed 100 sq. ft. maximum	Under eave or parapet for wall, awning, marquee, window or projecting sign	Permit required. No internal or illumination
O-1 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall sign non-flush mounted	1 per lot	100 sq. ft.	Cannot exceed roofline	No internal illumination
O & 1-2 (commercial)	On-premise sign	Monument	1 per street front	32. sq. ft. per sign face or 40 sq. ft. with approved master sign plan	6 ft. monument	Permit required 5 ft. minimum setback from right-of-way. No internal illumination of signs located on property sides that

						adjoin residential districts
0 & 1-2	On-premise sign	Wall sign, awning, marquee, or projecting sign	Any number of signs not to exceed max. total sign area except not more than 1 projecting sign per business	10% of each street façade not to exceed 500 sq. ft. for Hospitals and 200 sq. ft. for all other	Under eave or parapet for wall, awning, marquee, window or projecting sign	Permit required. No internal illumination of signs located on property sides that adjoin residential districts
0 & 1-2 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall sign non-flush mounted	1 per lot	100 sq. ft.	Cannot exceed roofline	No internal illumination
B-1 (Commercial)	On-premise sign	Monument	1 per street front	32 sq. ft. per sign face or 40 sq. ft. with approved master sign plan	6 ft. monument	Permit required 5 ft. minimum setback from right-of-way. No internal illumination
B-1 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall sign, awning, marquee, or projecting sign	Any number of signs not to exceed max. total sign area except not more than 1 projecting sign per business	10% of each façade visible from right-of-way	Under eave or parapet for wall, awning, marquee, window or projecting sign	Permit required. No internal illumination

B-2 (commercial)	On-premise sign	Monument	1 per street front	32 sq. ft. per sign face or 40 sq. ft. with approved master sign plan	6ft. monument	Permit required 5 ft. minimum setback from right-of-way. No internal illumination of signs located on property sides that adjoin residential districts
B-2 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall sign, awning, marquee, or projecting sign	Any number of signs not to exceed max. total sign area except not more than 1 projecting sign per business	10% of each façade visible from right-of-way	Under eave or parapet for wall, awning, marquee, window or projecting sign	Permit required. No internal illumination of signs located on property sides that adjoin residential districts
B-2 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall sign non-flush mounted	1 per lot	100 sq. ft.	Cannot exceed roofline	No internal illumination
B-3, B-4, B-5 (commercial)	On-premise sign	Monument sign	1 per street frontage, additional signs may be allowed at a rate of 1 per 500 feet of street front	120 sq. ft. shopping center signs	8ft. monument may be increased by 1 ft. for each additional 5ft of setback up to 12ft. in height	Permit required. 5ft minimum setback from right-of-way. Internally or externally illuminated

B-3, B-4, B-5 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall, awning, marquee or projecting sign	Any number of signs not to exceed max, total sign area except not more than 1 projecting sign per business	10% of each façade visible from right-of-way	Under eave or parapet for wall, awning, marquee, window or projecting sign	Permit required. Internally or externally illuminated
B-3, B-4, B-5 (continued...)	On-premise sign	Wall sign non-flush mounted	1 per lot	100 sq. ft.	Cannot exceed roofline	Permit required. No internal illumination
B-3, B-4, B-5 (continued...)	Out-parcel located on a parcel of land divided as a separate parcel which is located within a shopping center or an individual or an individual lot	Monument	1 per lot	32 sq. ft.	6ft.	Permit required. 5 ft. minimum setback from right-of-way. Internally or externally illuminated
Business Districts *B-1 thru B-5	interstate vicinity sign within 1,000 ft of an interstate highway	Pole	1 per lot	1 sq. ft. per 1 linear foot of frontage/ maximum 200 sq.ft.	Height of district	Permit required. Property must be within 1,000 ft of interstate right-of-way.

	right-of-way					Internally or externally illuminated
Business Districts *B-1 thru B-5	Hand Held Human/M ascot signs					No permit required outside right-of-way. Cannot impede traffic or public safety. Permission from property owner
LI, HI	On-premise sign	Monument	1 per street sign front	32 sq. ft. per sign face	8ft.	Permit required 5ft minimum setback from right-of-way. No internal illumination of signs located on property sides that adjoin residential districts
LI, HI	On-premise sign	Wall sign, awning, marquee, or projecting sign	Any number of signs not to exceed max. total sign area except not more than 1 projecting	10 sq. ft. per 100 sq. ft. of building frontage up to 100 sq. ft.	Under eave or parapet for wall, awning, marquee, window or projecting sign	Permit required. No internal illumination of signs located on property sides that adjoin residential districts

			sign per business			
Business Districts *B-1 thru B-5	On-premise sign	Wall sign non-flush mounted	1 per lot	100 sq. ft.	Cannot exceed roofline	No internal illumination
Business Districts *B-1 thru B-5	Entrance sign (industrial parks 49 areas or less)	Monument	1 per entrance	64 sq. ft.	8ft.	Permit required 5ft. minimum setback from right-of-way. Logo/trade mark only can be internally illuminated
Business Districts *B-1 thru B-5	Entrance sign (industrial parks in excess of 50 acres)	Pole or Monument	1 per entrance	64 sq. ft. each side of sign (limited to 4 sides)	25 ft.	Permit required 5ft minimum setback from right-of-way. Logo/trade mark only can be internally illuminated
Business Districts *B-1 thru B-5	Off-premise directional (industrial parks in excess of 50 acres)	Pole, monument or ground	1 per entrance	32 sq. ft.	8 ft.	Permit required 5ft minimum setback from right-of-way. No internal illumination

R-A, R-20, R-15, R-15M, R-10, R-10M, R-8, R-8M, R-8MF, R-5, R-5M, R-5MF	Temp.	Pole/Post or monument	1 per street front	4 sq. ft. per sign face	5ft. for pole/post or monument	Permit required. No internal or external illumination
R-A, R-20, R-15, R-15M, R-10, R-10M, R-8, R-8M, R-8MF, R-5, R-5M, R-5MF	Temp.	Wall sign	1 per street front	4 sq. ft. per sign face	Under eave	Permit required. No internal or external illumination
O-1, O & 1-2, B-1, B-2	Temp.	Pole/post or monument	1 per street front	16 sq. ft. per face	12ft. for pole/post; 5ft. for monument base	Permit required. No internal or external illumination
O-1, O & 1-2, B-1, B-2	Temp.	Wall sign	1 per street front	16 sq. ft. per face	Under eave	Permit required. No internal or external illumination
H-115, B-3, B-4, B-5, LI, HI	Temp.	Pole/post or monument	1 per parcel	32sq. ft. per face	25ft. for pole/post	Permit required. No internal or external illumination
H-115, B-3, B-4, B-5, LI, HI	Temp.	Wall sign	1 per parcel	32sq.ft. per face	Under eave	Permit required. No internal or external illumination
CB, CBP, MSD	Temp.	Wall sign	1 per storefront	16 sq. ft. per face	Under eave	Permit required. No internal or external illumination