

Portable Signs (A-board/Sandwich Board)

Portable signs are only allowed for civic/community service event signs, grand opening signs, real estate signs, and political signs. A permit is required for civic/community service and grand opening signs. No permit is required for real estate and political signs. Please see the "Where are temporary signs prohibited" section of this brochure for locations portable signs are not allowed [CMC 18.55.040(56), 18.55.050(3)(b)(xxii), (xxiv), and (Tables 1 and 2)]

Window Signs

Window signs are all signs located inside and affixed to a window and intended to be viewed from the exterior of the structure. Window signs shall not exceed 50% of the window area per frontage, except in the TC zone window signs shall not exceed 20%. No permit is required for window signs. [CMC 18.55.040(75), 18.55.050(3)(b)(xxviii), and 18.31.140(2)(g)]

Could I be held liable for damages

Yes. An individual or group that causes damage to landscaping, public structures, irrigation systems, or other underground utilities from the placement of temporary signs within public rights-of-way could be held liable for repair or replacement costs.

Will temporary sign regulations be enforced by the city?

Yes. Temporary signs that do not comply with the regulations set forth in the Covington Municipal Code will be removed by the city. Signs removed by the city will be kept for retrieval at the city operation and maintenance facility (17852 SE 256th St., 253-480-2480) for a period of seven days. Any sign not picked up within this period will be properly disposed of. THE CITY WILL NOT CONTACT ANY INDIVIDUAL OR GROUP WHEN REMOVING OR DISPOSING OF REAL ESTATE SIGNS THAT WERE NOT PLACED COMPLIANT WITH ADOPTED CITY REGULATIONS.

Who can I contact if I have questions regarding temporary signs?

If you have any questions regarding temporary sign regulations, or for retrieval of signs removed due to non-compliance, please contact the City of Covington Associate Planner / Code Enforcement Officer, Brian Bykonen, at 253-480-2448 or bbykonen@covingtonwa.gov.

City of Covington Mission Statement

"Covington is a place where community, business, and civic leaders work together with citizens to preserve and foster a strong sense of community."



City of Covington
Unmatched Quality of Life

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May 22, 2012

Temporary Sign Regulations for the City of Covington

(Effective April 2009)



City of Covington
Unmatched Quality of Life

What is a temporary sign?

A temporary sign is a sign not constructed or intended for long-term use. [CMC 18.55.040(69)]

Will I need a permit for a temporary sign?

Some temporary signs require a permit while other temporary signs do not. Please see the following types of signs to determine if a permit is required, or contact the City of Covington Community Development Department at 253-638-1110.

What temporary signs are prohibited?

The following types of temporary signs are prohibited unless expressly allowed by Covington Municipal Code 18.55:

- Animated or moving signs
 - Banners
 - Billboards
 - Inflatable advertising devices
 - Mylar balloons
 - Obstructing signs
 - Off-premises signs
 - Pennants, streamers, ribbons, spinners, whirlers, propellers, festoons, blinking lights, or similar items
 - Portable signs
 - Signs in a public right-of way
 - Roof signs
 - Simulations of traffic signs
 - Snipe signs
 - Vehicle signs principally used for advertising
- [CMC 18.55.060]

Where are temporary signs prohibited?

The placement of ALL temporary signs, unless allowed through a City approved sign permit, is prohibited within, on, or attached to the following areas and structures:

- Electric utility poles
- Traffic signs and signals
- Lampposts
- Sidewalks
- Stormwater facilities
- Critical areas
- Public buildings
- Guard rails
- City owned fences
- Street medians
- Roundabouts
- Along State Highway 516 (Kent-Kangley, SE 272nd Street)
- Any area that limits sight distance or access for pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorists.
- Off-site real estate signs are prohibited within 200 feet of each other, unless where doing so is necessary to indicate a turn or change of direction to an open house.

[CMC 18.30.240, 18.55.060(16), 18.55.050(3)(b)(xxiv) and RCW 47.42.080(5)]

Private Advertising Signs

Private advertising signs are temporary signs announcing an event, use, or condition of personal concern to the sign user including without limitation “garage sale” or “lost animal” signs. Private advertising signs 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 the 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 the event. No permits are required for private advertising signs. [CMC 18.55.040(57) and 18.55.050(3)(b)(xxiii)]

Political Signs

A political sign is a temporary sign advertising a candidate or candidates for public elective office, a political party, or signs urging a particular vote on a public issue decided by ballot in connection with a local, state, or national election or referendum. Political signs are allowed in all zones within the city, and are allowed on certain areas of public rights-of-way and private property with the permission of the property owner. Political signs can be no larger than six square feet, can be posted at any time prior to an election or referendum, and must be removed within seven days after the final election. No permit is required for political signs. Please see the “Political Sign” brochure on the city website for additional size, location, and duration information. [CMC 18.55.040(55) and (61), 18.55.050(3)(b)(xxii)]

Banner Signs

Banner signs are temporary signs made of fabric or other non-rigid materials with or without an enclosed framework. Banner signs are allowed for civic or community service events, special sales and promotional events, and grand openings. Banner signs must be attached to the façade of a building. A sign permit is required in order to display a banner sign. [CMC 18.55.040(6) and 18.55.050(Table 1)]

Real Estate Signs

“On-site” and “off-site” real estate signs are temporary or portable signs announcing the proposed sale or rental of a property(s). Up to six off-site real estate signs are allowed on public rights-of-way for the purpose of advertising an open house. These signs can only be posted during those hours an agent is actually present on the property and must be removed when the sales or rental office is closed at the end of each day. One on-site real estate sign is allowed per street frontage. No permit is required for real estate signs. Please see the “Real Estate Sign” brochure on the city website for additional size, location, duration, and content information. [CMC 18.55.040(60) and (61), 18.55.050(3)(b)(xxiv)]