



Sign Code Reminders

Election season is here! Whether you're running for office, supporting a candidate or ballot measure, or simply passionate about civic engagement, here's a friendly reminder about Fircrest's temporary sign regulations. These guidelines help ensure safety, fairness, and compliance with City codes – especially following updates made last year.

General Guidelines for Temporary Signs

- **No permit is required** for temporary signs.
- Signs must be **made of non-durable materials** (e.g., paper, foam core board, vinyl canvas, or vinyl mesh under 20 ounces).
- Signs must be **removed** if they become worn, damaged, create a public nuisance, or violate code provisions.
- **Temporary signs may not be displayed for more than 180 days.** After that, they must be removed or modified to meet permanent sign standards.

Where Signs Are Not Allowed

- **City-owned property** (e.g., parks, City Hall, Community Center).
- **Public right-of-way areas** used by vehicles, including medians, traffic circles, roadways, and sidewalks.
- **Planter boxes and flower beds** in publicly maintained areas.
- **Utility poles** – attaching signs is prohibited.
- **Permission required** – signs on private property or planting strips require the property owner's consent.

Safety Considerations

- **Signs cannot block sidewalks or impede access** for pedestrians, cyclists, or individuals with disabilities.
- **Signs cannot obstruct visibility** at intersections or traffic signs (e.g., stay at least 5 feet from stop signs).

Temporary Sign-Specific Rules

On-Premises Temporary Signs

- Allowed in all zones.
 - Must follow **maximum size limits** per zoning district.
 - Typically apply to residential use or commercial properties if **attached** (not freestanding).
 - Must have **property owner consent**.
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Off-Premises Temporary Signs & Special Placement Rules

Off-premises signs are allowed in the public right-of-way **only if**:

- Signs are removed within 10 days after the election.
 - For primary elections, signs for successful candidates may remain up to 10 days after the succeeding general election.
- All signs comply with [FMC 22.26.021](#).
- The number and placement of signs do not create a nuisance or safety issue.

Additional placement rules:

- **Planting strips adjacent to City-owned or public property** (e.g., parks, City Hall, Community Center): Signs are prohibited.
- **Privately owned planting strips**: Signs allowed **with owner consent**.
- **Temporary signs on City property (not right-of-way)**: Require a **special event permit**.

Zoning-Specific Sign Regulations

Residential Zones (Group 2)

- **Freestanding signs**: Max 6 square feet, 4 feet high. There is no quantity limit unless they create a nuisance or public safety concern.
- **Window signs**: One per unit, max 4 square feet.
- **Surface-mounted signs**: One per unit, max 2 square feet, must be flatly affixed to walls or fences.

Nonresidential Zones (Groups 1 & 3)

- **Window signs**: Max 4 square feet or 10% of window area (whichever is greater).
- **Freestanding signs**: Max 8 square feet, 4 feet high, spaced at least 100 feet apart on property frontage.
- **Surface-mounted signs**: Maximum 32 square feet, flatly affixed to walls or fences.

Enforcement & Penalties

- Improperly placed signs in the public right-of-way may be **immediately removed and held for 10 working days** before disposal.
- **Illegal removal** of campaign signs is considered **theft in the third degree**, a gross misdemeanor punishable by up to a \$5,000 fine, up to 1 year in jail, or a combination of fine and jail time. [RCW 29A.84.040](#).

Reference

Campaign staff and volunteers should review [FMC 22.26.021](#) for the full regulations on temporary signs. This sheet provides an overview of the temporary sign code and does not encompass all situations or offer comprehensive code information.

For questions or further clarification, please contact Permits at permits@cityoffircrest.net or 253-564-8901.