

City of Wooster Temporary Sign Regulations – Effective 6/6/18

The following are general regulations for temporary signs with a commercial message.

All Temporary Signs

- Temporary Signs Cannot Be:
 - Located in the public right of way or attached to a utility or light pole
 - Placed above a roofline or on a permanent sign
 - Illuminated, flashing or blinking
 - Pennants, ribbons, or streamers
 - Incorporate any movement or motion, filled with air, windblown, balloons, or have air activated graphics
- Temporary signs must be secured to the ground or structure and cannot be moved by the wind
- Temporary signs require a Sign Permit if larger than 12 sq. ft. as indicated below

Signs in Non-Residential Zoning Districts

- Without a Sign Permit, temporary signs can be up to 12 sq. ft. without a time limit when meeting all requirements
- With a Sign Permit, temporary sign area can be increased by an additional 24 sq. ft. (36 sq. ft. total area) on 4 occasions in a calendar year, 30 days per occurrence
- Temporary freestanding yard signs must be located on the property, setback 3 ft. from the right of way and adjacent property lines, and have a maximum height of 6 ft.
- One A-Frame or T-Frame sign, up to 2 ft. wide and 3 ft. tall, is permitted on the sidewalk in front of a business during business hours when the sidewalk is at least 7 ft. in width and 4 ft. of sidewalk clearance is available
- Sign Permit applications can be made at: <https://woosteroh.viewpointcloud.com/> under “Planning and Zoning Division”

Signs in Residential Zoning Districts

- Up to two temporary signs are permitted on each lot
- Temporary signs can only be yard signs, banner signs or window signs
- Temporary signs can be up to 4 ft. in height and each sign can be up to 6 sq. ft. in area
- Temporary freestanding yard signs must be set back 3 ft. from all lot lines and the right-of-way
- For lots 5 acres or larger, with a Sign Permit, one temporary sign may be up to 24 sq. ft. in area and maintain a 10 ft. setback from all lot lines and the right-of-way
- Non-residential uses in Residential Zoning Districts have the option of displaying temporary signs as allowed for properties in non-residential zoning districts

The above information does not include a complete list of all applicable sign regulations. A full list of sign regulations can be found in Chapter 1127 of the Wooster Planning and Zoning Code at <https://www.woosteroh.com/planning/zoning-code-comprehensive-plan>

City of Wooster Temporary Sign Regulations – Effective 6/6/18

The following are general regulations for temporary signs without a commercial message.

- Temporary Signs Cannot Be:
 - Located in the public right of way or attached to a utility or light pole
 - Placed above a roofline or on a permanent sign
 - Illuminated, flashing or blinking
 - Pennants, ribbons, or streamers
 - Incorporate any movement or motion, filled with air, windblown, balloons, or have air activated graphics
- Signs shall not be posted in any place or in any manner that is destructive to public property including, but not limited to, rights-of-way, utility poles, public trees, etc.
- A Sign Permit is not required
- Only freestanding yard signs and banner signs are permitted
- Freestanding signs have a maximum height 6 ft. and banners signs mounted to a building cannot be located above the roofline or the top of the structure Temporary signs must be secured to the ground or structure and cannot be moved by the wind

The above information does not include a complete list of all applicable sign regulations. A full list of sign regulations can be found in Chapter 1127 of the Wooster Planning and Zoning Code at <https://www.woosteroh.com/planning/zoning-code-comprehensive-plan>

1127.11 Temporary Signs

The following temporary signs shall be permitted anywhere within the City provided they meet the established standards.

(a) Standards that Apply to all Temporary Signs

- (1) Temporary signs shall not be mounted, attached, affixed, installed, or otherwise secured in a manner that will make the sign a permanent sign.
- (2) No temporary sign shall be mounted, attached, affixed, installed, or otherwise secured so as to protrude above the roofline of a structure.
- (3) Unless otherwise specifically stated, temporary signs shall not be illuminated.
- (4) No temporary sign shall require a foundation, support, wiring, fittings, or elements that would traditionally require a building permit or electrical permit.
- (5) All temporary signs shall be secured in such a manner as to prevent swinging or other significantly noticeable movement resulting from the wind that could pose a danger to people, vehicles, or structures.
- (6) Mobile signs on wheels, runners, casters, parked trailers, parked vehicles, or other temporary or movable signs shall not be permitted unless otherwise specifically stated in this chapter.
- (7) Because of the nature of materials typically used to construct temporary signs and to avoid the unsightliness of deteriorating signs and all safety concerns which accompany such a condition, temporary signs shall be removed or replaced when such sign is deteriorated.
- (8) Unless otherwise stated, a sign permit for temporary signs shall be required for temporary signs that exceed 12 square feet.

(b) Temporary Signs without a Commercial Message

Temporary signs without a commercial message do not require a sign permit provided they comply with the following standards:

- (1) Temporary signs that do not contain a commercial message shall not be posted in any place or in any manner that is destructive to public property including, but not limited to, rights-of-way, utility poles, public trees, etc.
- (2) Temporary signs that do not contain a commercial message shall still be required to comply with the intersection visibility requirements. See Section [1115.02\(d\)](#).
- (3) The maximum height of temporary signs without commercial speech shall be six feet unless it is a banner sign mounted to a structure, in which case, the banner sign shall not be mounted above the roofline or the top of the structure.
- (4) Such signs shall be limited to yard signs or banner signs.

(c) Temporary Signs in Agricultural and Residential Zoning Districts

The following are the temporary signs with a commercial message allowed in AG, R-1, R-2, R-T, R-3, R-4, and R-5 zoning districts, as well as on lots used for residential-only purposes in PD Districts:

- (1) Up to two temporary signs with a commercial message are permitted on each lot in a residential zoning district, including any lot used for residential-only purposes in a PD District.

- (2) The signs are limited to yard signs, banner signs, or signs posted in a window subject to the sign-specific standards in Section [1127.11\(e\)](#).
- (3) The maximum sign area for each sign shall be six square feet with a maximum height of four feet.
- (4) A temporary yard sign shall be set back a minimum of three feet from all lots lines and rights-of-way.
- (5) For properties that are five acres or larger, one of the temporary yard signs permitted by this section may have a maximum sign area of 24 square feet with a maximum height of eight feet. Such sign shall be set back 10 feet from all lot lines.
- (6) In lieu of the above regulations, any nonresidential use located in a residential zoning district shall be permitted to have temporary signs with a commercial message in the same size, height, and manner as temporary signs allowed in the C-1 District, pursuant to this section.

(d) Temporary Signs in Nonresidential Zoning Districts

The following are the temporary signs with a commercial message allowed in CF, C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, I-1, I-2, and I-3 zoning districts, as well as nonresidential uses in PD Districts:

- (1) Up to 12 square feet of temporary signs is permitted year-round, without time restrictions, provided the signs are of the following type, subject to the standards for each specific type of sign:
 - A. A-Frame or T-Frame sidewalk signs;
 - B. Banner signs; and
 - C. Temporary yard signs.
- (2) **Limited Temporary Sign Allowance**
 - A. In addition to the temporary signage allowed year-round, each lot in shall be permitted the use of additional temporary signage on a limited time basis.
 - B. Each lot is permitted to have an additional 24 square feet of temporary signs for a period of 30 consecutive days, up to four times per calendar year.
 - C. The limited temporary sign allowance may include any of the following sign types subject to any applicable standards established for each sign type in this chapter.
 - i. Banner signs;
 - ii. Temporary window signs; and
 - iii. Temporary yard signs.
- (3) There shall be no maximum number of signs provided the aggregate total square footage of sign does not exceed the amount allowed in this section unless limited by the sign type standard in Section [1127.11\(e\)](#).

(e) Standards for Temporary Sign Types

(1) A-Frame or T-Frame Sidewalk Signs

- A. There shall be no time limit for sidewalk signs with the exception that the sign shall only be placed outside during the hours of the establishment's operation.

- B. Only one sidewalk sign is allowed for any one business establishment at one time and shall be located within five feet of such business.
- C. Such signs shall not exceed three feet in height or two feet in width.
- D. The sign may be located on a public or private sidewalk or walkway provided it is placed on pavement and not in any landscaped areas or on pavement used for vehicles (e.g., driveways and parking lots).
- E. If the sign is placed on a sidewalk or walkway, the sign can only be placed where the paved sidewalk or walkway width, not including curb top, is at least seven feet wide. The width and placement of the sign shall be such so that there shall be a minimum width of four feet of clear and passable sidewalk or walkway for pedestrians.
- F. The sign must be free-standing and shall not be affixed, chained, anchored, or otherwise secured to the ground or to any pole, parking meter, tree, tree grate, fire hydrant, railing, or other structure.
- G. The sign must not obstruct access to parking meters, bicycle racks and other features legally in the right-of-way.
- H. The sign must not interfere with the opening of car doors in legal spaces, or with the operation of wheelchair lifts and ramps, cab stands, loading zones or bus stops.
- I. The sign shall be internally weighted so that it is stable and windproof.
- J. The City of Wooster shall be held harmless from any liability resulting from accident or injury caused by the placement and/or maintenance of such sign.

(2) Banner Signs

- A. Banner signs may be attached to a building, fence, or other similar structure. Banner signs attached to posts and mounted in a yard or landscaped area shall be regulated as a temporary yard sign.
- B. The maximum height standard for temporary signs shall not apply to a banner sign but such signs shall not be mounted in a manner that extends above the roofline of a building or the top of the structure on which it is mounted.
- C. For zoning permit applications related to the establishment of a new use within an existing building where there is existing permanent sign, a banner sign may be approved for up to 60 consecutive days to cover the existing permanent signs. Such banner sign shall not exceed the sign area of the permanent sign and shall require a sign permit.

(3) Yard Signs

- A. There shall be no maximum number of yard signs provided the aggregate total square footage of all yard signs does not exceed the maximum sign area allowed in this section.
- B. There shall be a maximum of two faces to the sign, mounted back-to-back.
- C. The maximum height shall be six feet.

1127.05 Prohibited Signs

The following types of signs are specifically prohibited within the City of Wooster:

- (a)** Any sign that copies or imitates a sign installed by a government agency for official purposes;
- (b)** Windblown devices;
- (c)** Signs that employ any parts or elements that revolve, rotate, whirl, spin or otherwise make use of motion to attract attention. This shall not include changeable copy signs as allowed in this chapter;
- (d)** Signs with moving or flashing lights, except as allowed for electronic message centers in Section [1127.06\(n\)\(4\)](#);
- (e)** Flashing, intermittent, or moving signs that flash or move more than once every three seconds, blinker, racer type, animated, whirligig devices, exposed light bulbs, and strings of lights not permanently mounted to a rigid background, and other similar types of attention-getting devices;
- (f)** Beacons, spotlights, and searchlights, except for emergency purposes;
- (g)** Pennants, ribbons, or streamers;
- (h)** Signs that are applied to trees, bus shelters, utility poles, benches, trash receptacles, newspaper vending machines or boxes, or any other unapproved supporting structure, or otherwise placed in the public right-of-way;
- (i)** Signs that obstruct or substantially interfere with any window, door, fire escape, stairway, ladder, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress, or egress to any building;
- (j)** Any sign located in a public right-of-way except as provided for in Section [1127.06\(m\)](#);
- (k)** Signs which are not securely affixed to the ground or otherwise affixed in a permanent manner to an approved supporting structure unless specifically permitted as a temporary sign;
- (l)** Signs mounted on top of a roof;
- (m)** Portable signs, not including A-frame or T-frame sidewalk signs;
- (n)** Vehicle signs viewed from a public road with the primary purpose of providing signage not otherwise allowed by this chapter. A vehicle sign shall be considered to be used for the primary purpose of advertising if the vehicle fails to display current license plates, inspection sticker, or municipal decal, if the vehicle is inoperable, if evidence of paid-to-date local taxes cannot be made available, or if the sign alters the standard design of such vehicle. Vehicle signs include those attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Vehicles or trailers shall not be parked continuously in one location to be used primarily as additional signage. This does not apply to a vehicle parked at a driver's residence and is the primary means of transportation to and from his or her place of employment;
- (o)** Balloon signs or air activated graphic; and
- (p)** Any sign not specifically allowed by this chapter.