

ARTICLE 7

SIGN REGULATIONS

700 PURPOSE

In order that the legitimate demands for signage can be met without the unsightly intrusion of an unlimited number of signs of inappropriate size, dimension and location, any sign erected or altered in Milton Borough after the effective date of this Ordinance shall conform to the following regulations.

701 TYPES OF SIGNS

Signage may include a variety of different types of signs, each with unique functions. The following list itemizes and describes the types of signs considered under the provisions of this Article.

- A. Advertising Sign Board: A sign or board intending to attract the attention of motorists or pedestrians to a product, place or activity that exists or occurs at a location other than the location upon which the sign is situated; i.e. an off-premises sign.
- B. Awning Sign: A sign that is displayed on or is attached flat against the surface of an awning which identifies the business to which it is attached; i.e. a business identification sign. Such signs shall project from and be supported by the exterior wall of a building and may be composed of rigid or non-rigid materials and/or fabric on a supporting framework. For the purposes of this Ordinance, awning signs may be either permanent or retractable.
- C. Business Identification Sign: A sign or board intending to attract motorists or pedestrians to a business, product, service or activity that is sold, produced, or conducted on the same premises upon which the sign is located; i.e. an on-premises sign. For the purposes of this Ordinance, business identification signs may be either free-standing or parallel or projecting wall signs.
- D. Canopy Sign: A sign affixed to the visible surface(s) of an attached or free-standing canopy which advertises a product available on the premises or identifies the business to which it is attached or accessory; i.e. a business identification sign. Such signs may be located on various sides of the canopy.
- E. Directional Sign: A sign erected and maintained for the purpose of directing vehicular or pedestrian traffic to a particular destination, which does not contain any advertisement or promotional information, but may include a business logo. Such signs may be either on-premises or off-premises signs.
- F. Free-Standing Sign: A self-supporting sign resting on the ground or supported by means

of poles or standards placed in or on the ground. Such signs may advertise a business, product or item offered for sale or that are directly related to the premises on which they are located, i.e. a business identification sign, or may advertise a business, product or event located elsewhere, i.e. an advertising sign board.

- G. Parallel Wall Sign: A type of wall sign which is attached parallel to the face of its supporting wall, and which does not protrude more than 15 inches from such wall.
- H. Permanent Sign: A sign intended to be used for a period of time exceeding 30 days, excluding standard real estate signs.
- I. Projecting Wall Sign: A type of wall sign with its horizontal plane attached at right angles to its supporting wall and which protrudes more than 15 inches from such wall.
- J. Temporary Sign: A sign intended to be used for a period of time of 30 days or less, including advertising boards used periodically.
- K. Wall Sign: A sign attached to a wall or part of a wall of a building or structure. Such signs may be either parallel or projecting signs.

702 GENERAL SIGN REGULATIONS

The following regulations shall apply to all permitted sign uses.

A. Zoning Permit Required

A Zoning Permit shall be required for the placement, erection, or alteration of all **permanent** signs, except name plates or personal identification signs, property posting signs, property sale or rental signs, and municipally placed directional or public service signs. Applications for signs being erected on property other than that owned by the applicant shall include written permission from the property owner. (Fees for the issuance of Zoning Permits for signs shall be paid to the Borough and shall be in accordance with the schedule of fees established by Resolution of Council. There shall be no fee charged for any Permit connected with the erection of a sign necessary to the public welfare.)

B. Construction and Maintenance

Signs shall be constructed of durable materials, be maintained in good condition, and shall not be allowed to become dilapidated or endanger public health, safety or welfare. All signs shall be securely fastened in order to prevent their displacement by the elements. Further, the design of all signs exceeding 12 square feet in size which are building or canopy-mounted shall be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect to meet the wind load requirements of the Borough Building Code.

C. Sign Area

For the purposes of this Ordinance, sign area shall include the entire face of a single side of a sign, including all trim and border area, but excluding any supporting framework or bracing. A double-faced sign shall be considered a single sign. Where a sign consists of individual letters or symbols attached to a building, the area of the sign shall be the smallest rectangle or other regular geometric shape which encompasses all of the letters and/or symbols.

Exception: Electronic Sign area shall include the entire electronic lighted area of the sign.

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

D. Placement

1. No sign shall be placed within the clear sight triangle of any intersection as per the requirements of Section 504 I., nor at any other location that could obstruct or impair a motorist's clear vision. In addition, no sign (whether temporary or permanent) shall be located where it could be an impediment to pedestrian traffic.
2. No sign, other than an official traffic sign, shall be erected within the right-of-way of any street, unless authorized by Borough Council or PADOT, as applicable, for a special purpose.
3. The supporting structure(s) of all free-standing signs shall be located no closer than ten (10) feet to any lot line or the edge of any street cartway. In no case shall a free-standing sign hang over a street cartway or walkway.
4. No sign shall be erected or maintained which could prevent free ingress or egress from any door, window, or fire escape, nor shall any sign be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
5. Signs placed in any floodplain district shall be subject to the regulations of the underlying district, except that no sign in any floodplain area may impede natural drainage or the flow of water.

E. Height

1. No free-standing sign located in an R-1, R-2, R-3, PRD, or OS District shall exceed eight (8) feet in height. In all other zones, the maximum height of free-standing signs shall be 40 feet.
2. No portion of a wall sign shall extend above the top of the wall to which it is attached.
3. No sign shall be erected or placed upon the roof of any building.

F. Projection

1. Parallel wall signs shall not extend more than 15 inches from the surface to which they are mounted or attached, nor in any way interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

2. Projecting wall signs shall not extend or project more than three (3) feet from their supporting structure or wall, nor shall any such sign extend over a street cartway.
3. Projecting wall signs shall have a clearance of no less than ten (10) feet, measured from the ground or pavement immediately surrounding the sign to the bottom or lowest part of the sign.

G. Illumination

1. Exterior illumination of a sign shall be steady in nature, not flashing, moving, or changing in brilliance, color, or intensity, shall cause no glare or other disturbance which would be incompatible with the nature of the neighborhood where the sign is located, or which would in any way impair the vision of passing motorists. In addition, signs in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts should be "down-lit" where possible in order to avoid disturbing adjacent property owners.

2. Electronic (Digital, LED, etc.) signs remain unchanged for a minimum of (5) seconds. The time interval used to change from one complete message/display to the next complete message shall be a maximum of (1) second. There shall be no appearance of a visual dissolve or fading, in which any part of one electronic message/display appears simultaneously with any part of a second electronic message/display. There shall be no appearance of flashing or sudden bursts of light, and no appearance of animation, movement, or flow of the message/display. Any illumination intensity or contract of light level shall remain constant. The electronic sign illumination shall not cause a glaring effect on the roadway of neighboring structures. The sign may only advertise what pertains to the premises or structures where the sign is located.

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

H. State Regulations

All applicable State regulations shall be met where signs are proposed in areas adjacent to highways included in PADOT's Primary and Interstate Highway System. Any person desiring to erect a sign in these areas shall contact PADOT to determine if the state's regulations will affect his proposal. A copy of PADOT's determination, in writing, shall accompany all applications for signs in such areas.

703 **SIGNS IN THE R-1 (Low Density Residential), R-2 (Moderate Density Residential), PRD (Planned Residential Development) AND OS (Open Space) DISTRICTS**

Signs may be placed or located in the R-1, R-2, PRD, or OS Zoning Districts subject to the following specified requirements. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

A. General Signs

The following types of **non-illuminated, non-advertising** general signs may be permitted in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts as indicated below. Such signs may be designed as either **free-standing or parallel wall signs**. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

1. Property Posting Signs. Signs which indicate the private nature of a property, a driveway, or a road may be permitted as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 2 square feet.
 - b. Maximum Number - As needed.

2. Name Plates or Personal Identification Signs. Signs which display the name of the property owner and/or address of the property on which they are located may be permitted as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 3 square feet.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless the property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) sign may be erected on each frontage.

3. Home Occupation Signs. Signs which identify the name of a specific home occupation to be conducted on the site where they are located may be permitted as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 4 square feet.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless the property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) sign may be erected on each frontage.

4. Property Sale and/or Rental Signs. Signs which advertise the sale, rental, or lease of property on which they are located may be permitted as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 12 square feet.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than two (2) such signs per property, unless such property is situated on a corner, in which case two (2) signs may be erected on each frontage.

5. Artisans Signs. Signs of mechanics, painters, or other artisans performing work on the premises may be permitted temporarily while such work is on-going as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 12 square feet.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless such property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) sign may be erected on each frontage.

6. Residential Development Identification Signs. Signs which identify the name of the residential development upon which they are located may be permitted as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 20 square feet; with no commercial advertising.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per entrance, or if such property is situated on a corner, one (1) sign may be erected on each frontage.

7. Welcome Signs. Signs which are placed by a governmental entity or a non-profit trade/tourist/commerce entity which welcome visitors to the community may be permitted as follows:

- a. Maximum Size - 28 square feet.
- b. Maximum Number - As needed.
- c. Special Provisions - Such signs may be externally illuminated, and may be located within PADOT right-of-way with PADOT approval.
- d. Special Authorization Required - Borough Council approval.

8. Business District Directional Signs. Signs which are placed by a governmental entity or a non-profit trade/tourist/commerce entity which direct visitors to the community's business district may be permitted as follows:

- a. Maximum Size - 18 square feet.
- b. Maximum Number - As needed.
- c. Special Provisions - Such signs may be externally illuminated, and may be located within PADOT right-of-way with PADOT approval.
- d. Special Authorization Required - Borough Council approval.

B. Civic and Institutional Signs

Illuminated or non-illuminated, civic or institutional signs may be permitted in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts as indicated below. Such signs may be designed as either **free-standing or parallel wall signs**. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

1. On-Premises Signs. Signs which display the name of a school, church, fire station, day care center, government or cultural facility, park or playground, personal care or nursing home, retirement centers, fraternal or non-profit organization facilities, or similar public or semi-public use may be permitted as follows:

- a. Maximum Size - 16 square feet.
- b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless such property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) sign may be erected on each frontage.

2. Off-Premises Signs. Signs directing persons or motorists to the location of churches, schools, non-profit or civic organizations may be permitted as follows:

- a. Maximum Size - 6 square feet per civic organization.
- b. Maximum Number - As needed.
- c. Special Provisions - Such signs must be attached to a designated civic marquee, and may not be free-standing signs.
- d. Special Authorization Required - Borough Council approval.

C. Business Identification Signs

The following types of **illuminated or non-illuminated, non-advertising** business identification signs may be permitted in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts as indicated below. Such signs may be designed as **free-standing or parallel wall signs**. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

1. Existing Nonconforming Uses. Signs which identify the name of an existing nonconforming use (whether a new sign or a replacement for an existing sign) may be permitted as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 16 square feet for new or replacement signs.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless the property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) sign may be erected on each frontage.
2. New Commercial Uses. Signs which identify the name of an approved commercial use or activity, including professional offices, bed and breakfast establishments, boarding or rooming homes, or other uses set forth in the District Regulations, Sections 302, 303, 305, and 310, may be permitted as follows:
 - a. Maximum Size - 16 square feet.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless the property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) sign may be erected on each frontage.

704 SIGNS IN THE R-3 (High Density Residential) DISTRICT

Signs may be placed or located in the R-3 Zoning District subject to the following specified requirements. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

A. General Signs

Those signs permitted in the Section 703 A., General Signs in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts, may also be permitted in the R-3 District at the same size, in the same number, and in same style. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

B. Civic or Institutional Signs

Those signs permitted in Section 703 B., Civic and Institutional Signs in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts, may also be permitted in the R-3 District at the same size, in the same number, and in the same style. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

C. Business Identification Signs

Where proposed in conjunction with a permissible commercial use or activity in the R-3 District, the following types of **illuminated or non-illuminated** business identification signs may be permitted in the R-3 District as indicated below. Such signs may be designed as either **free-standing OR parallel wall signs**. (Electronic signs prohibited)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

Business identification signs in the R-3 Zone shall be limited to those which identify the name and/or logo or trademark of the business, service, or activity which is situated or is occurring on the premises where the sign is located, and may be permitted as follows (Electronic signs prohibited):

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

1. Free-Standing Signs.

- a. Maximum Size - 24 square feet.
- b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, regardless

of the road frontages or exposures available for the use or activity.

2. Parallel Wall Signs.

- a. Maximum Size - 24 square feet.
- b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless such property is located on a corner, in which case one (1) parallel wall sign may be permitted on each frontage. Total sign area for all such signs shall not exceed 48 square feet.

705 SIGNS IN THE C (General Commercial), CBD 1 & 2 (Central Business District 1 & 2), M (Manufacturing), EDD (Economic Development District), AND I/OP (Industrial/Office Park) DISTRICTS

Signs may be placed or located in the C, CBD 1 & 2, M, EDD, or I/OP Districts subject to the following specified requirements. (Electronic signs allowed. See Section 702.C & G)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

A. General Signs

Those signs permitted in Section 703 A., General Signs in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts, may also be permitted in the C, CBD 1 & 2, M, EDD, and I/OP Districts at the same size, in the same number, and in the same style. (Electronic signs allowed. See Section 702.C & G)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

B. Civic and Institutional Signs

Those signs permitted in Section 703 B., Civic and Institutional Signs in the R-1, R-2, PRD, and OS Districts, may also be permitted in the C, CBD 1 & 2, M, EDD, and I/OP Districts at the same size, in the same number, and in the same style. (Electronic signs allowed. See Section 702.C & G)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

C. Business Identification Signs

Where proposed in conjunction with an approved commercial or industrial use or activity, the following types of **illuminated or non-illuminated** business identification signs may be permitted in the C, CBD 1 & 2, M, EDD, or I/OP District as indicated below. Such signs may be designed as **free-standing signs, parallel wall signs, projecting wall signs, or awning or canopy signs**. (Electronic signs allowed. See Section 702.C & G)

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

Business identification signs in the these districts shall be limited to those which identify the name, logo, or trademark of the business, service, activity, or industry, and/or the availability or pricing of certain products offered for sale on the premises where the sign is located, and may be permitted as follows:

1. Free-Standing Signs.

- a. Maximum Size - 50 square feet in the C, CBD District 1 & 2; 75 square feet in the M, EDD, and I/OP Districts.

(added 09/13/2023 per Ordinance # 1249)

- b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless the property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) free-standing sign may be permitted on each frontage.
2. Parallel Wall Signs.
- a. Maximum Size - 50 square feet in the CBD District 1 & 2; 100 square feet in the M, EDD, I/OP, and C Districts.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property, unless such property is situated on a corner, in which case one (1) parallel wall sign may be permitted on each frontage. Total sign area for all such signs shall not exceed 75 square feet in the CBD District 1 & 2, 150 square feet in the M, EDD, I/OP, and C Districts.
3. Projecting Wall Signs.
- a. Maximum Size - 50 square feet.
 - b. Maximum Number - No more than one (1) such sign per property; however, projecting wall signs may only be used in lieu of parallel wall signs.
4. Canopy or Awning Signs.
- a. Maximum Size - Total area of all such signs shall be not more than 25% of the background area of the awning or canopy upon which the sign is affixed or applied.
 - b. Maximum Number - As needed; however, canopy or awning signs may only be used in lieu of wall signs.
5. Residential Signs in the CBD 2 (Central Business District 2).
- a. Shall follow the regulations as set forth by Section 703