

Chapter 21.44

SIGNS

Sections:

21.44.010 Signs and Street Graphics.

21.44.020 Sign Design Standards.

21.44.010 Signs and Street Graphics.

A. Purpose. The purpose of these sign regulations is:

1. To encourage the effective and creative use of signs as a means of communication in the City;
2. To improve pedestrian and traffic safety by reducing signage or advertising distractions and obstructions that contribute to limited site visibility;
3. To maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment and the City's ability to attract sources of economic development and growth;
4. To minimize the possible adverse effects of signs on nearby public and private property; and
5. To enable the fair and consistent enforcement of these sign regulations.

B. Applicability.

1. Sign permits required. All signs require building permits before being erected, altered or relocated. Signs altered as the result of a change of business or use at a site shall comply with this section or be removed. Building permit fees, procedures and enforcement or requirements shall comply with RMC Title 15, Buildings and Construction.
2. New zones. If a new zone is created after the enactment of this chapter, the Administrator shall have the authority to make determinations as to the applicability of appropriate sign regulations based on the most analogous zone.
3. Design Standards. The sign design standards provided in this chapter will be used in the evaluation of Sign Permit applications to ensure that signs are well designed, compatible with their surroundings, and do not detract from the overall visual quality of the City.
4. Minor Repairs. The following minor repairs do not require a sign permit:
 - a. Replacement of a light bulb,
 - b. Repair of neon tubing if such repair does not alter the sign structure and design,
 - c. Replacement or repainting (repair) of existing individual letters, and
 - d. Painting of the base or support frame.
5. Compliance. All signs shall comply with this section.

C. Administration. All sign permits shall be reviewed under the procedures set forth in this chapter. The Administrator shall review all sign permit applications under the design criteria of this chapter and shall approve those applications found to comply with the criteria. ~~Applications found to conflict with the review criteria and requests to deviate from sign program requirements will be referred to the Design Review Board for consideration of approval.~~ The Administrator ~~and Design Review Board Technical Committee~~ shall not place greater restraints on signs than provided by this chapter.

D. Exemptions. The following signs are exempt from the requirements of this section:

1. Seasonal Decorations. Reasonable seasonal decorations within an appropriate holiday season or during a festival are exempt from this section as long as such displays are removed promptly at the end of the holiday season or festival;
2. Street Furniture. Sculptures, fountains, benches, lighting, mosaics, landscaping, artwork, and other street furniture and design features which do not incorporate advertising or identification;
3. Signs Not Visible from Public Way. Exterior and interior signs or displays not intended to be visible from public streets or public ways, signs in the interior of a building more than three feet from the closest window and not facing a window, window displays and point of purchase advertising displays such as vending machines are exempt from the requirements of this section;
4. Flagpoles. Poles erected for the purpose of displaying patriotic or corporate flags;
5. Certain Public Signs. The following signs and displays are exempt from the requirements of this section: street signs and/or numbers, street address identification, traffic control and pedestrian signs and signals, governmental directional, gateway, and/or wayfinding signs, public and legal notices and warnings required by a public process, signs required by law, and governmental flags.
6. Gateway Entrance Signs. Repealed by Ord. 3083.
7. Address Verification Signs. These signs are exempt if they are four square feet or less.
8. Directional Signs. Directional signs may be located to guide or direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic to parking entrances, exits, service areas, and business locations, and may not exceed six square feet in area. Such signs are exempt from the requirement of a sign permit if they do not contain a commercial message or the name of establishment.
9. Parking Area Signs. Where parking is separated from the business served, one off-premises sign is permitted for identification. Signs shall not exceed six square feet in area and are exempt from the requirement of a sign permit if there is no commercial message.
10. Window Signs. Permanent and temporary window signs and graphics are exempt from the requirement of a sign permit; however, home businesses are prohibited from using window signs and/or window graphics.
11. Incidental Signs. Small signs of a noncommercial nature without advertising intended primarily for the convenience of the public and having a maximum area of six square feet are exempt from the requirement of a sign permit. Included are signs designating restrooms, hours of operations, entrances and exits to buildings and parking lots, help wanted, public telephones, etc. Also included are property

control and warning signs such as “no trespassing,” “no dumping,” etc., and plaques, tablets, or inscriptions which are an integral part of a building or are attached flat to the face of a building, walkway, or street. Resident name identification signs are exempt and are considered incidental signage provided that they do not exceed six square feet and are placed entirely on the resident’s property.

12. Construction Safety Signs. Construction safety signs providing notice to the public that construction is occurring on the site and that caution is warranted.

E. Prohibited Signs. The following signs are prohibited:

1. Animated Signs. No sign shall be animated, revolve or rotate either mechanically or by illumination except the movement of the hands of a clock, digital changers, and barber poles.

2. Temporary Portable Signs. Temporary portable signs not meeting the requirements of this chapter. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, portable reader boards, signs on trailers, banners and sandwich boards.

3. Signs on Utility Poles. Signs on utility, street light, and traffic control standards or poles are prohibited, except for those of the utility or government.

4. Signs not meeting the requirements of this section or that are legal nonconformances. The following signs are unlawful: signs that do not comply with the conditions of their permits; signs erected, altered, or relocated without a permit and not in compliance with this section; signs which were lawful under prior sign codes, but which have been altered or relocated so that the sign is not in compliance with this section; and signs that identify and advertise activities, products, businesses, or services which have been discontinued, terminated, or closed for more than 60 days on the premises upon which the signs are located.

5. Streamers, Pennants and Banners. Displays of banners, festoon flags, flags, posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, strings of lights (except as provided in seasonal decorations), chasing strobe or scintillating lights, flares, balloons, bubble machines, and similar devices are prohibited when the same are visible from any off-site location, including but not limited to, any public right-of-way. Where such signs or devices are not visible from public rights-of-way, this prohibition does not apply. For purposes of this subsection, a single, integrated development that does not contain or cross public rights-of-way is considered a single site even where the development spans more than one contiguous parcel. This section shall not prohibit the use of displays in a parade.

6. Traffic-Like Signs. Signs which by reason of their size, location, movement, content, coloring or manner of illumination may be confused with a traffic control sign, signal, or device, or the light of an emergency vehicle, or which obstruct the visibility of any traffic or street sign or signal are prohibited.

7. Obscene Signs. Signs which bear or contain statements, words, or pictures which are obscene under the prevailing statutes or U.S. Supreme Court decisional law are prohibited.

8. Abandoned signs or signs displaying a business that is no longer in operation at the location of the sign.

9. Signs attached to or strung in between trees.

RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

10. Signs attached to fences, with the exception of temporary construction signs (for safety purposes).
11. Signs wholly or partially above a roofline. All rooftop signs, including those painted on a rooftop, are illegal.
12. Signs/devices that are inflated, or balloons, whether on the ground or on a building or vehicle, that are used to attract attention to a particular business, product, or service.
13. Signs used in a home business.
14. Any sign placed or attached to a vehicle, vessel, or trailer parked on public or private property for the sole purpose of advertising a business, product, or service identification.
15. Signs displaying information related to, but not limited to, commercial, real property, or construction sites that are located outside of the Redmond City limits.

F. Permitted Sign Charts. The Permitted Sign Charts establish sign type, number, area, height, and location requirements for the various zoning districts and are incorporated as a part of this section.

Residential land uses not referenced to in the following permitted sign charts are not permitted to have signs, unless allowed elsewhere in this section.

Standards for properties in Transition Overlay Areas can be found in RZC 21.50, Transition Overlay Areas.

1. Freestanding/Monument Signs.

Figure 21.44.010A
Freestanding/Monument Sign

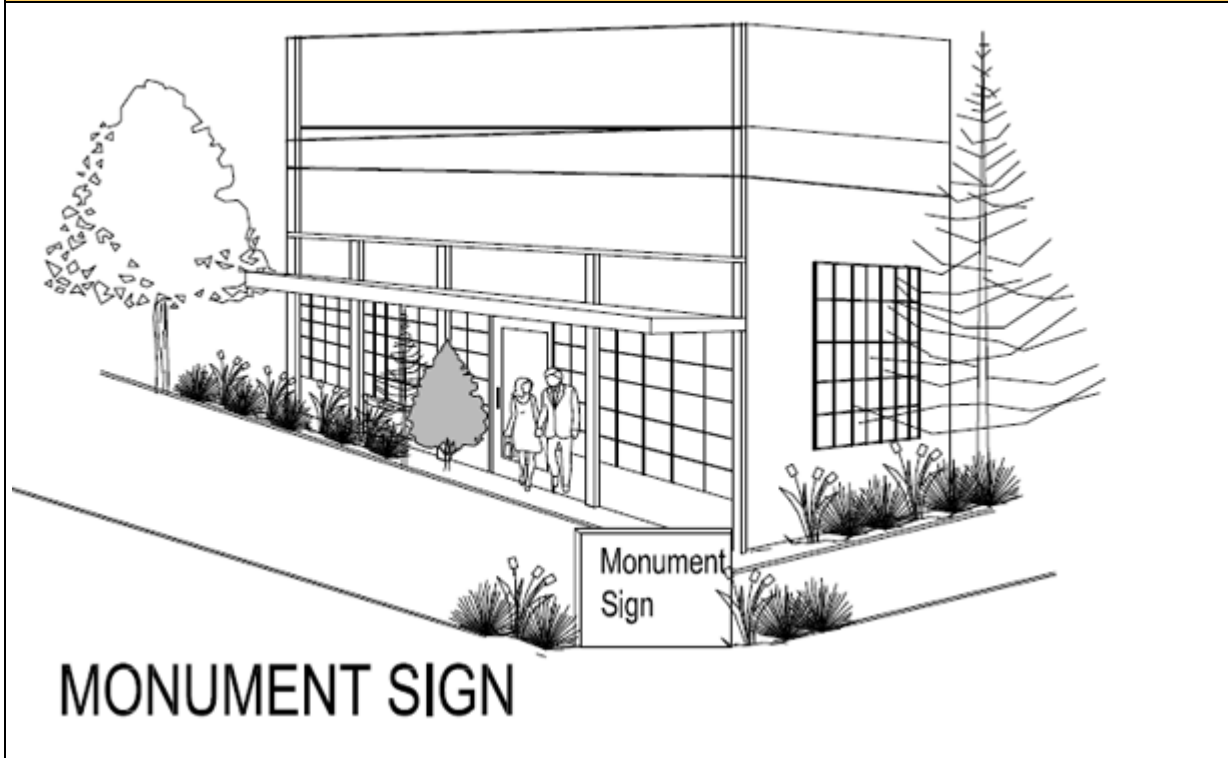


Table 21.44.010A
Freestanding / Monument Sign Standards

Zone	Maximum Number of Monument Signs per Street Frontage per Establishment	Minimum Setback from Property Line in Feet	Maximum Height of Sign in Feet	Maximum Size per Sign Face (Square Feet)	Maximum Number of Sign Faces
GC; VV; TR; BC; SMT; TSQ; RVBD; RR, OV, BCDD, MDD1	1	5	A height equal to the sign setback up to 10 feet	The smaller of one percent of the average gross floor area or 25 percent of lineal street frontage where the sign is to be placed up to a maximum of 75 square feet; but in any event, 25 square feet is permitted	4

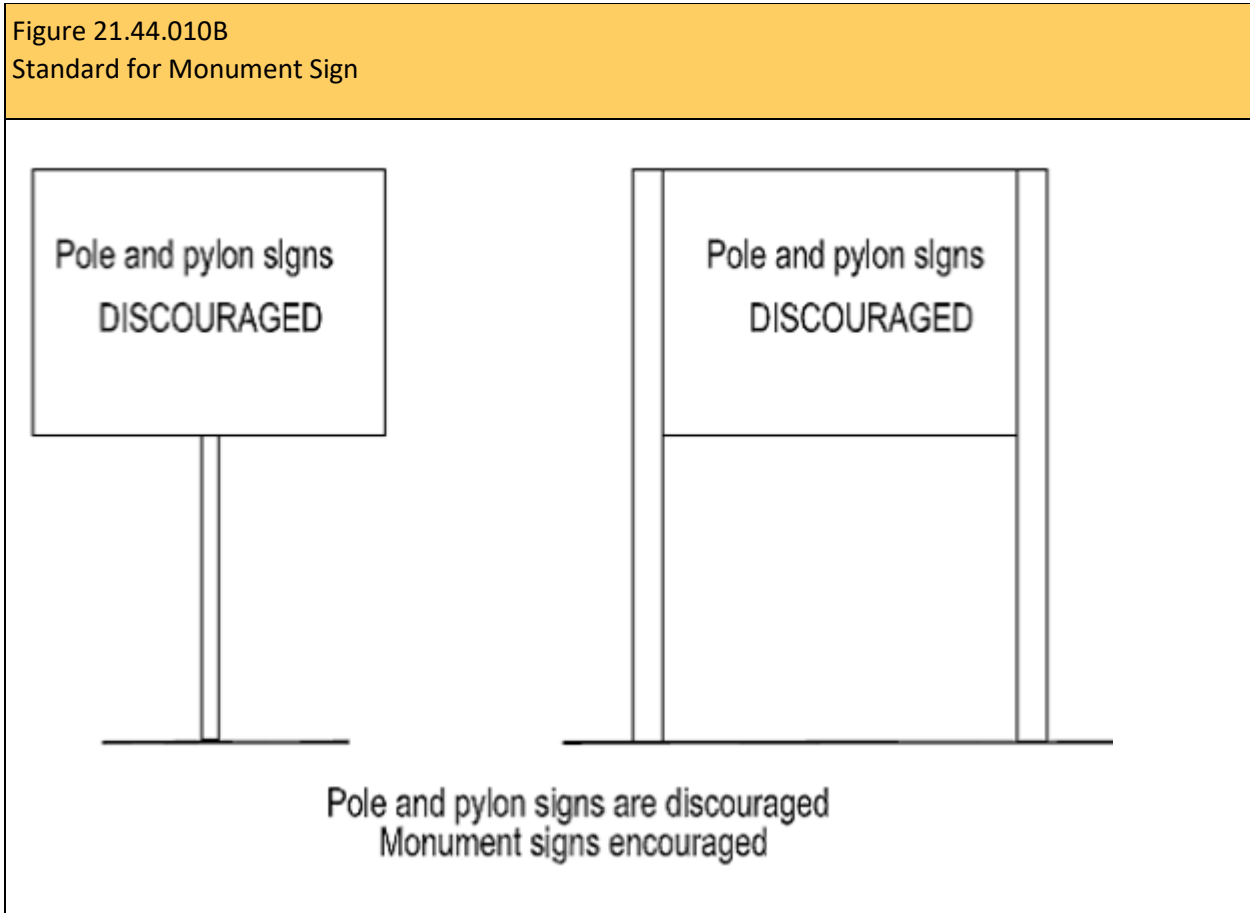
RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

Figure 21.44.010A

Freestanding/Monument Sign

OT; TWNC; NC-2; AP; MP; I; BP; OBAT; R-20; R-30, MDD2, MDD3, MDD4, MDD5	1	5	A height equal to the sign setback up to 10 feet	The smaller of one percent of the average gross floor area or 25 percent of lineal street frontage where the sign is to be placed up to a maximum of 50 square feet; but in any event, 25 square feet is permitted	4
UR; RA-5; R-1 – R-18; RVT; CTR; EH	1	10	10	25 square feet	2

Individual businesses in multiple-building complexes are not permitted to have freestanding/monument signs. Freestanding/monument signs are prohibited in Neighborhood Commercial 1 (NC-1) zones. In addition, Sign Programs are required for multiple-tenant buildings and multiple-building complexes.



Individual businesses that choose to have a freestanding or monument sign may also have a maximum of one pedestrian-oriented blade sign or a pedestrian-oriented bracket sign per facade. Businesses that choose a pole sign shall not be permitted to have a pedestrian-oriented blade sign or a pedestrian-oriented bracket sign.

2. Wall/Awning Signs.

Figure 21.44.010C
Wall Sign

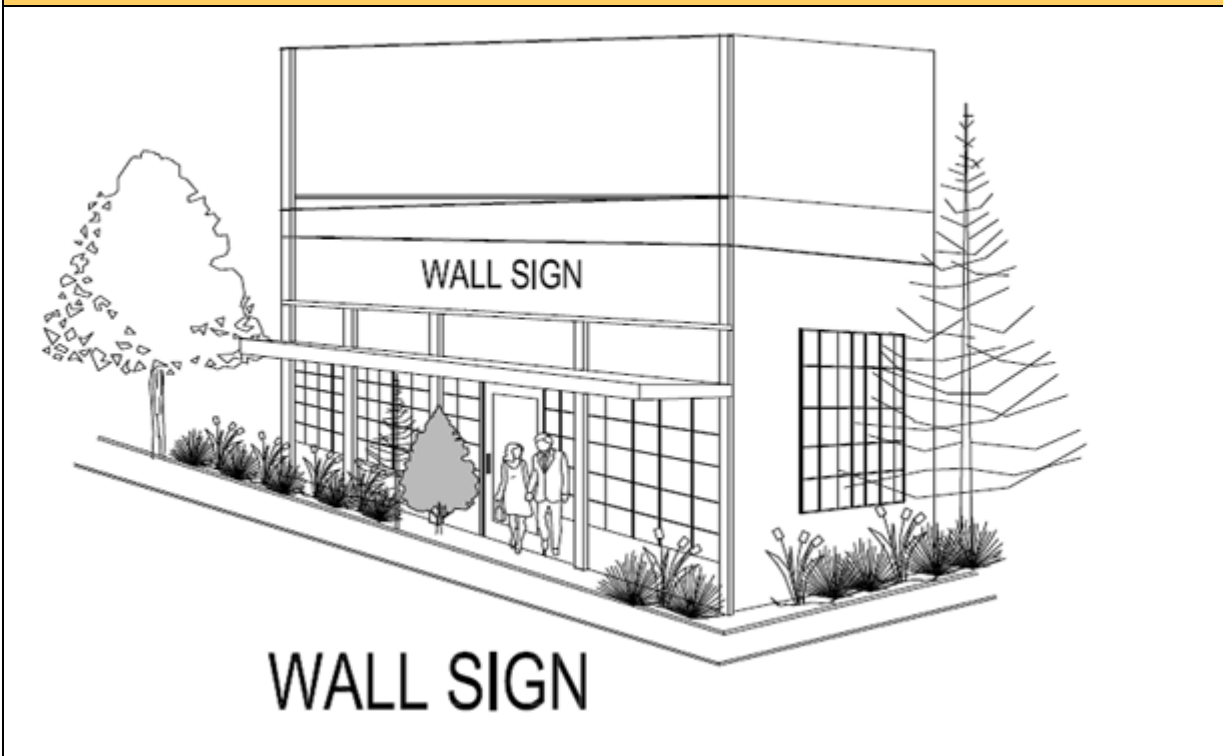
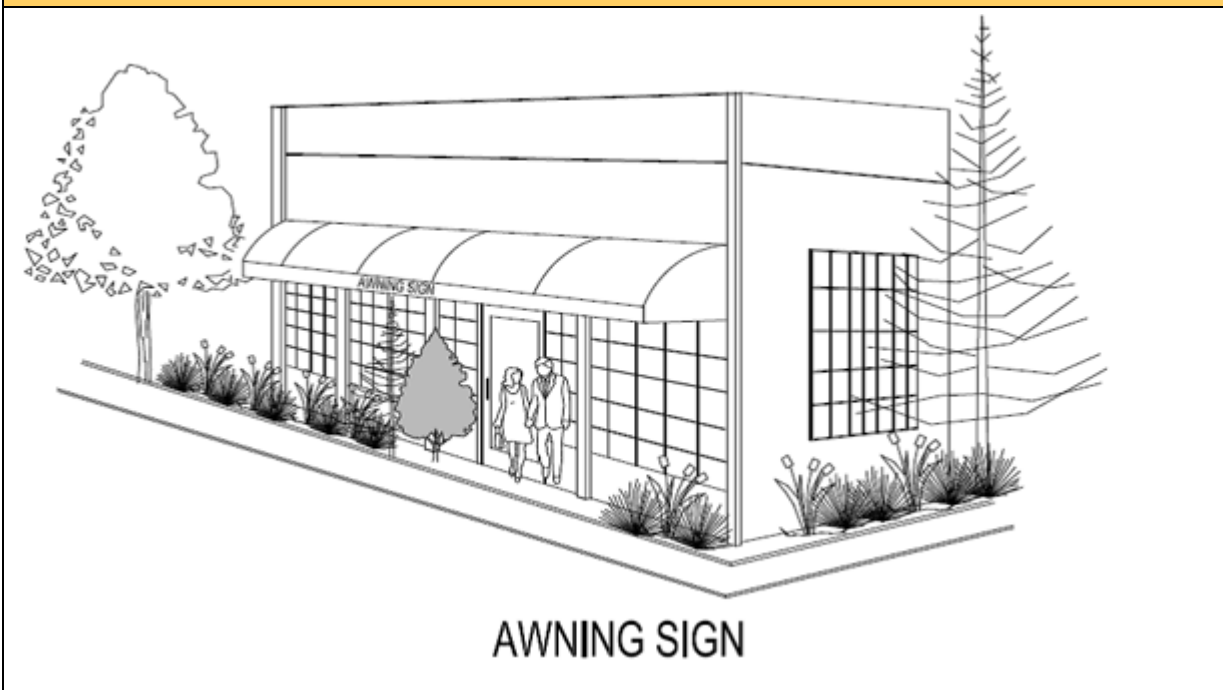


Figure 21.44.010D
Awning Sign



RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

Figure 21.44.010C Wall Sign			
Table 21.44.010B Wall / Awning Signs			
Zone	Maximum Number of Wall or Awning Signs per Facade	Maximum Sign Area (Square Feet)	Maximum Sign Height (Feet)
GC; NC-2; VV; TR; BC; SMT; TSQ; RVBD; RR, OV, BCDD, MDD1	1	The larger of 15 percent of the facade to which attached or 60 square feet up to a maximum of 300 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached
OT; TWNC; NC-1; AP; MP; I; BP; OBAT; R-20; R-30, MDD2, MDD3, MDD4, MDD5	1	The larger of 15 percent of the facade to which the sign is attached or 30 square feet up to a maximum of 100 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached
Nonresidential Uses in UR; RA-5; R-1 – R-18; RVT; CTR; EH	1	60 square feet	20 feet

Individual businesses are allowed either one wall sign or one awning sign per facade, with the exception of the Neighborhood Commercial 1 zone (NC-1). Within the Neighborhood Commercial 1 zone, a maximum of one wall sign or one awning sign is permitted for each individual structure and the sign shall not face residential uses to the side, rear, or diagonally abutting to the Neighborhood Commercial 1 (NC-1) zone. In addition, each individual business is allowed a maximum of either one pedestrian-oriented blade sign or one pedestrian-oriented bracket sign per facade.

3. Projecting Signs.

Figure 21.44.010E
Projecting Sign

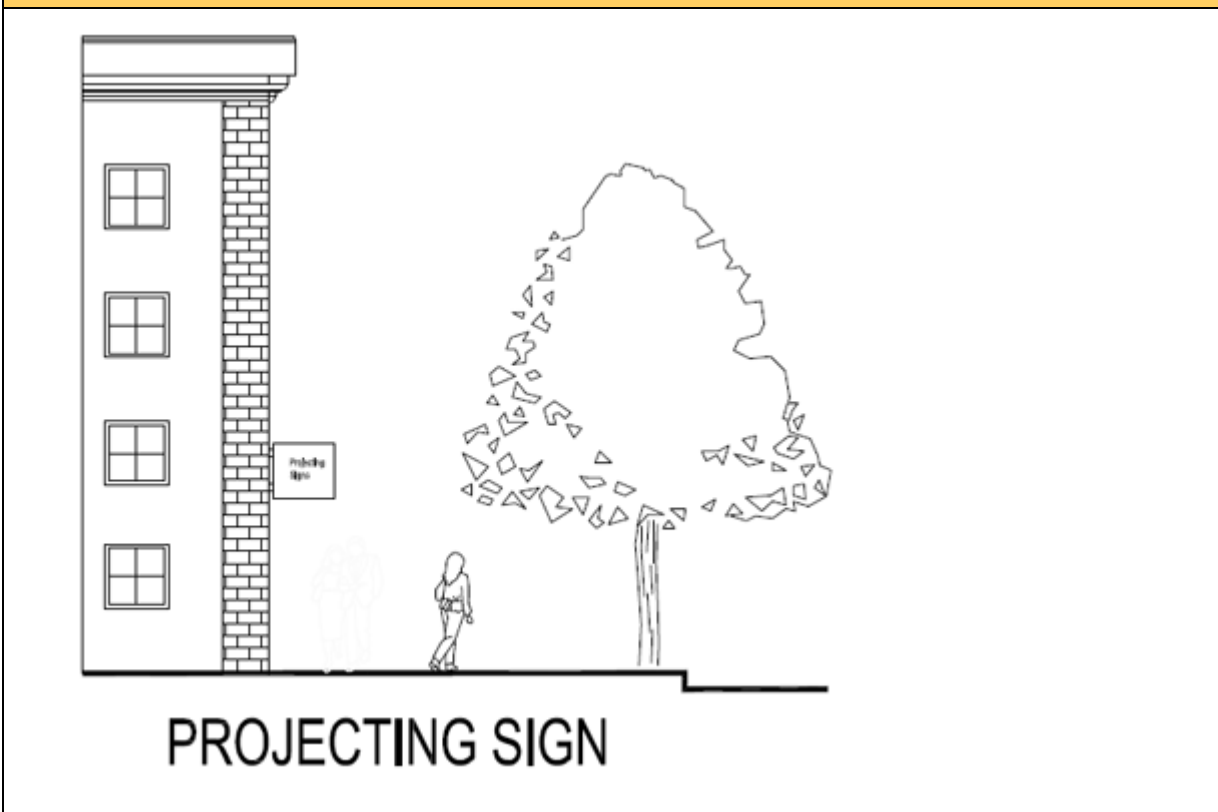


Table 21.44.010C
Projecting Sign Standards

Zone	Maximum Number of Projecting Signs per Facade	Maximum Area per Sign Face (Square Feet)	Maximum Area Total of all Sign Faces (Square Feet)	Maximum Height (Feet)
GC; NC-1; NC-2; VV; TR; BC; SMT; TSQ; RVBD; RR, OV, BCDD, MDD1	1	15 square feet	30 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached
OT; TWNC; AP; MP; I; BP; OBAT; R-20; R-30, MDD2, MDD3, MDD4, MDD5	1	15 square feet	30 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached

Figure 21.44.010E Projecting Sign				
Nonresidential Uses in UR; RA-5; R-1 – R-18; RVT; CTR; EH	1	25 square feet	50 square feet	20 feet

Individual businesses that choose to have a projecting sign instead of a wall or awning sign shall not be permitted to have a pedestrian-oriented blade sign or a pedestrian-oriented bracket sign.

4. Blade Signs.

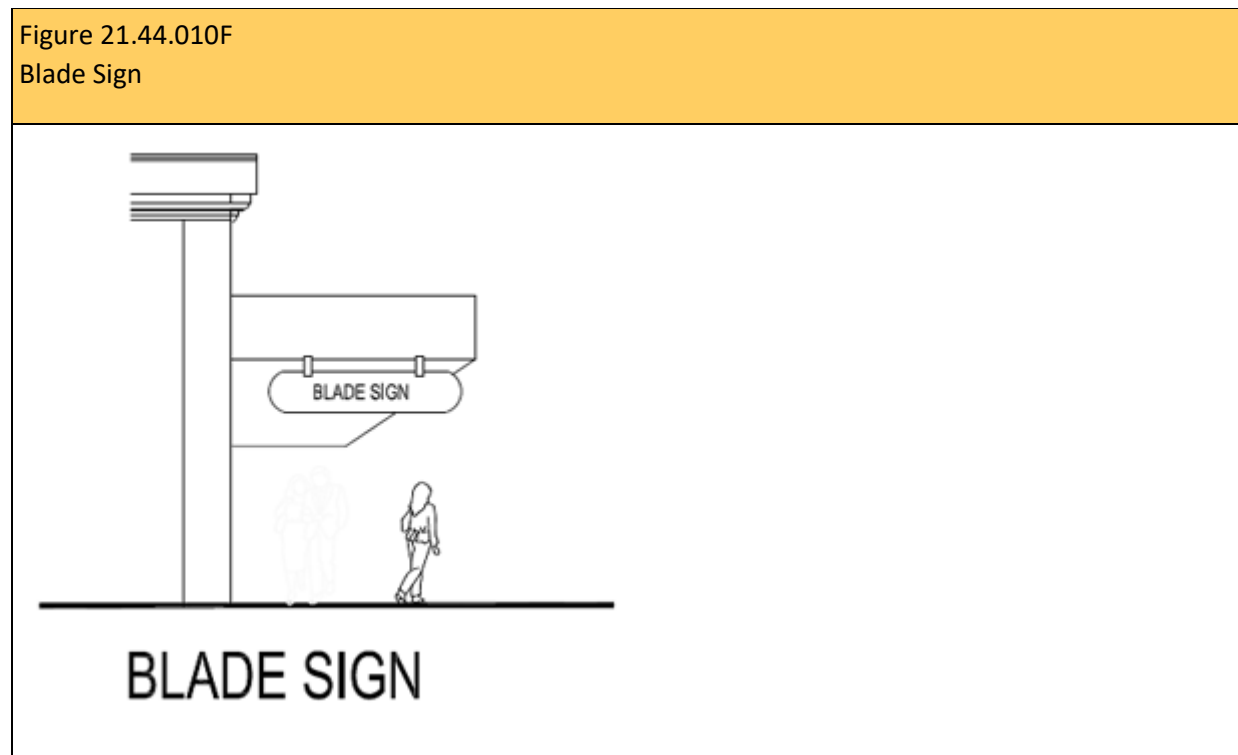
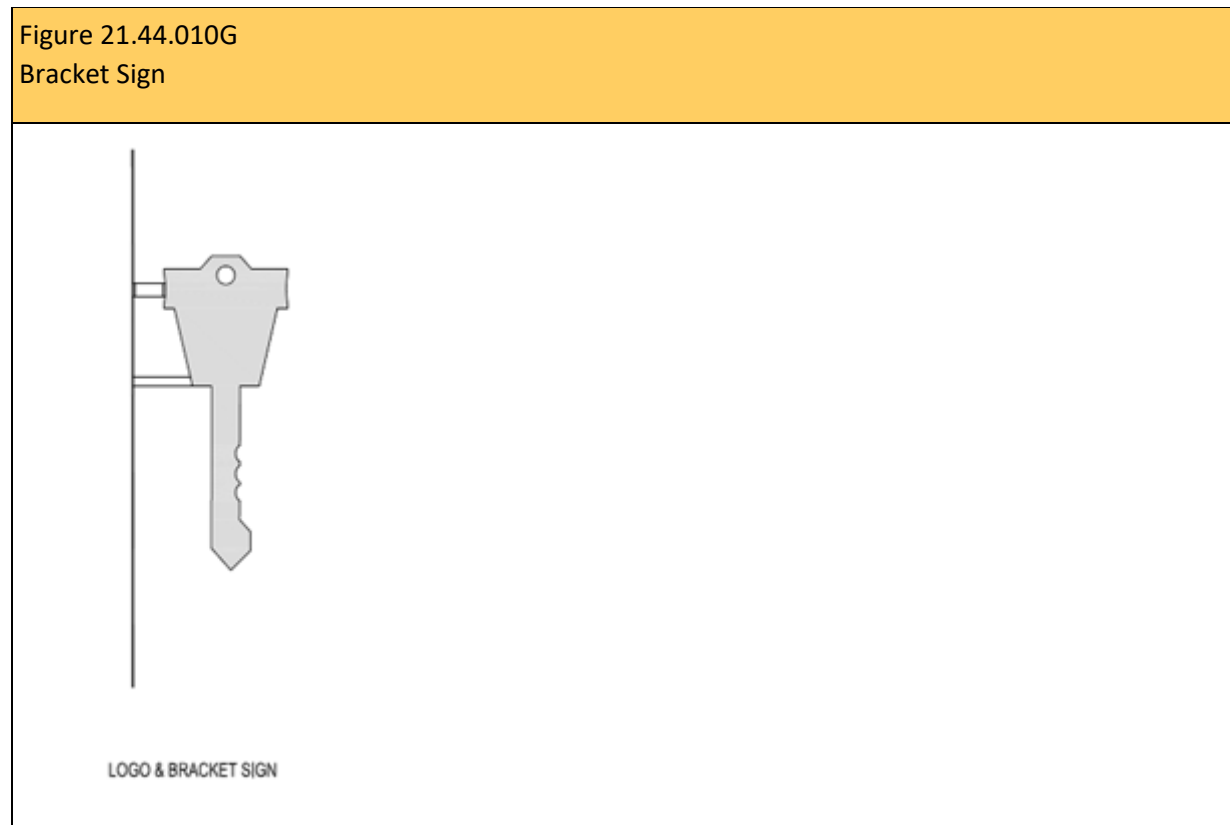


Table 21.44.010D
Blade Sign Standards

Zone	Maximum Number of Blade Signs per Facade*	Maximum Area per Sign Face (Square Feet)	Maximum Area Total of all Sign Faces (Square Feet)	Maximum Height (Feet)
GC; NC-1; NC-2; VV; TR; BC; SMT; TSQ; RVBD; RR, OV, BCDD, MDD1	1	6 square feet	12 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached

Figure 21.44.010F Blade Sign				
OT; TWNC; AP; MP; I; BP; OBAT; R-20; R-30, MDD2, MDD3, MDD4, MDD5	1	6 square feet	12 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached
Nonresidential Uses in UR; RA-5; R-1 – R-18; RVT; CTR; EH	1	6 square feet	12 square feet	20 feet
<p>TABLE NOTE:</p> <p>* An individual business that chooses a wall sign or an awning sign may also have a maximum of one pedestrian-oriented blade sign or one pedestrian-oriented bracket sign per facade.</p>				

5. Bracket Signs.



RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

Figure 21.44.010G Bracket Sign				
Table 21.44.010E Bracket Sign Standards				
Zone	Maximum Number of Bracket Signs per Facade*	Maximum Area per Sign Face (Square Feet)	Maximum Area Total of all Sign Faces (Square Feet)	Maximum Height (Feet)
GC; NC-1; NC-2; VV; TR; BC; SMT; TSQ; RVBD; RR, OV, BCDD, MDD1	1	6 square feet	12 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached
OT; TWNC; AP; MP; I; BP; OBAT; R-20; R-30, MDD2, MDD3, MDD4, MDD5	1	6 square feet	12 square feet	Top of the wall or facade to which attached
Nonresidential Uses in UR; RA-5; R-1 – R-18; RVT; CTR; EH	1	6 square feet	12 square feet	20 feet
TABLE NOTE: * An individual business that chooses a wall sign or an awning sign may also have a maximum of one pedestrian-oriented blade sign or one pedestrian-oriented bracket sign per facade.				

G. General Sign Requirements. The following are general requirements for various types of signage. Please refer to RZC 21.44.010.D, Exemptions, of this chapter for signs that are exempt from needing a permit, and RZC 21.44.010.E, Prohibited Signs, of this chapter for signs that are prohibited.

1. Street Address Identification. Each residence, building, business, or complex of buildings shall display and maintain an on-premises street address number identification. The number or letters shall be visible from the street and be at least four but not greater than 12 inches high and of a color contrasting with the background upon which placed.
2. Changing Message Signs. Changing message signs, such as the movement of the hands of a clock or digital changes indicating time, date and temperature, are permitted.
3. Lighting restrictions. No person shall construct, establish, create, or maintain any stationary exterior lighting or illumination system or any interior system which is intended to be viewed from a public street, highway, or other public thoroughfare used for vehicular traffic when such system contains or utilizes:

- a. Any exposed incandescent lamp with a wattage in excess of 25 watts unless a dimmer or sunscreen is attached;
- b. Any exposed incandescent lamp with an internal metallic reflector;
- c. Any exposed incandescent lamp with an external reflector;
- d. Any revolving beacon light; any continuous or sequential flashing operation in which more than one-third of the lights are turned off at one time and/or which uses light of more than 25 watts; or
- e. Any strobe light.

These provisions shall not apply to: lighting systems owned or controlled by any public agency for the purpose of directing or controlling navigation, traffic, highway or street illumination; electronic messages of a public service or commercial nature; or temporary lighting used for repair or construction as required by governmental agencies.

4. Permanent Subdivision or Neighborhood Identification Signs. Permanent freestanding or monument signs, including those for short subdivisions, may be placed at the major entrances to the subdivision or neighborhood on arterial and collector streets. The signs shall be located outside the right-of-way, and be no more than 10 feet in height or length, and not exceed 60 square feet per face or 120 square feet in total area of all sign faces.

5. Readerboards. Readerboards are signs in which the sign copy or content can be readily and frequently changed. Readerboards are permitted subject to the size and location requirements of this section, as long as they are incorporated within the sign area of an allowable monument or freestanding sign.

6. Sight Clearance. All freestanding or monument signs shall comply with the Sight Clearance at Intersections requirements in RZC 21.52.040, Sight Clearance at Intersections.

7. Sign Maintenance. Signs shall be maintained in a state of good repair. Those signs found to be deteriorated or unsafe shall be repaired or removed by the owner within five days after receiving notice from the City. The premises surrounding a freestanding sign shall be free of litter, and any landscaped area shall be maintained.

8. Wall Mounted Signs. Wall mounted signs shall not extend above the height of the facade or wall to which attached.

9. Projecting Signs and Marquees. Projecting signs and marquees may not extend more than five feet from a building facade and shall have a minimum clearance of eight feet above sidewalks. Projecting signs and marquees shall not extend into a public right-of-way without the approval of the Technical Committee. Projecting signs shall have no visible angle irons, wire, bracing, or standard support structure except those that are an integral part of the overall design such as decorative metals or wood. Under marquee signs shall be considered blade signs.

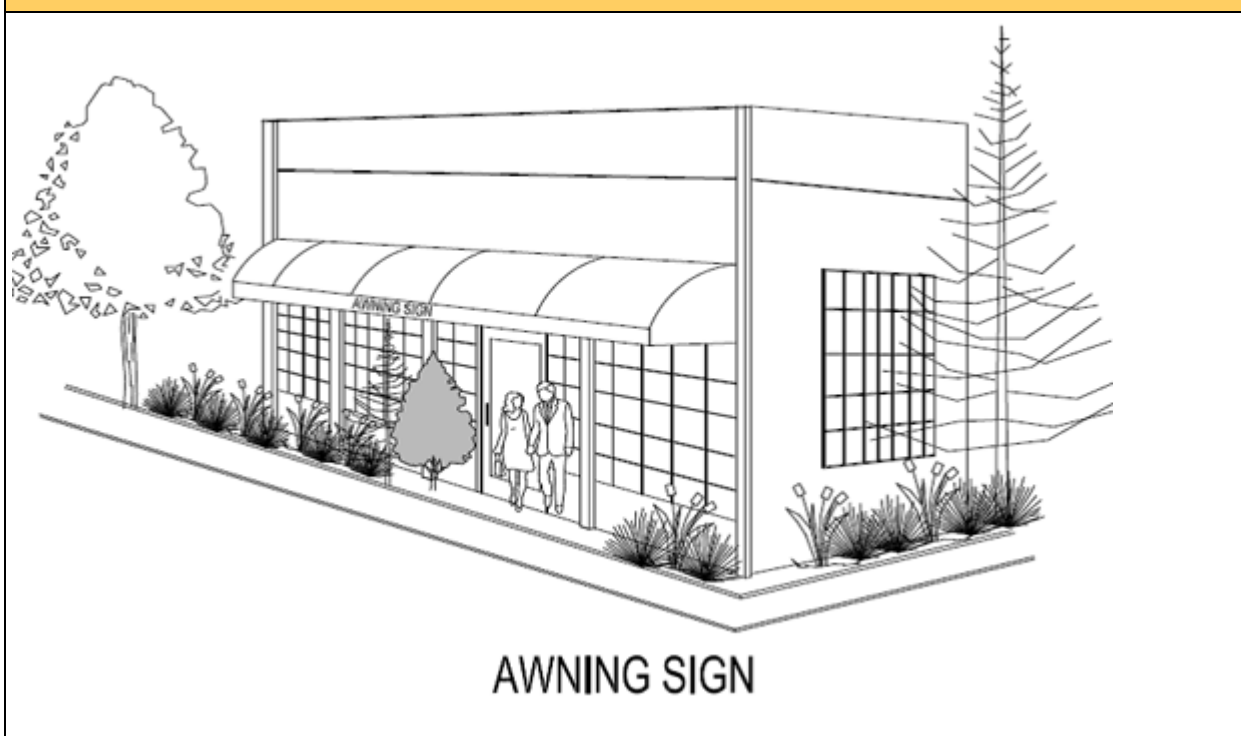
10. Freestanding/Monument Signs. Freestanding/Monument signs shall be of a style, material and design compatible with the associated building. All sign and support elements are to be integrated into a single design. Auxiliary projections or attachments not a part of that design shall not be erected without

a building permit. Freestanding/Monument signs shall not be oriented solely towards a freeway and then shall not extend into a public right-of-way.

11. Multiple-Building Complexes and Multiple-Tenant Buildings. Each multiple-building complex is permitted one freestanding sign on each street on which it adjoins and has access. However, the Technical Committee may permit one additional sign per street frontage when the respective frontage is at least 300 lineal feet in length. Individual businesses and buildings in such a complex are not permitted individual freestanding or monument signs. Each multiple-tenant building, unless it is a part of a multiple-building complex, is permitted one freestanding sign on each street on which it adjoins and has access. Individual businesses in such a building are not permitted individual freestanding or monument signs. Signs shall be based on a uniform sign concept approved by the Design Review Board Technical Committee that shall be known as the approved "Sign Program." All subsequent tenant signs must conform to the approved sign program in addition to the sign review criteria defined in the 21.44.010.I, Sign Program, section of this chapter, unless a modification from the sign program has been requested by the property owners.

12. Marquee, Canopy, and Awning Signs. Marquee, canopy, and awning signs shall be considered wall signs for the purpose of determining sign area.

Figure 21.44.010H
Awning Sign



13. Service Organization Signs. Service, fraternal, and similar organizations located in the City may erect signs at City entrances only as follows: There shall be one standard no higher than 10 feet that shall carry all of the signs for the subject organizations; there shall be no more than one standard per entrance; each organization sign, symbol, or emblem shall not exceed two square feet in sign area.

H. Permitted Temporary Portable and Temporary Freestanding Signs. Temporary portable signs which are exempt from the requirement of a sign permit, unless otherwise provided, are permitted in any zone subject to the following requirements:

1. Temporary portable signs which are exempt from the requirement of a sign permit, unless otherwise provided, are permitted in any zone subject to the following requirements:

a. Number. The number of temporary portable commercial, real estate, and construction signs allowed shall be as follows, provided that nothing herein shall be construed as authorizing the display of signs otherwise prohibited under applicable provisions of this code, including but not limited to home business signs:

i. For any business, or real estate unit, located in the UR, DT, NC, GC, OV, OBAT, RR, BCDD, BP, MP, or I zoning districts, no more than one temporary portable commercial or real estate sign shall be allowed for each business location or real estate unit offered for sale or lease, provided that a maximum of one portable sign shall be allowed for any multi-unit complex notwithstanding the number of rental or dwelling units therein currently available for sale or lease. For each multi-unit complex, one temporary freestanding “for sale” or “for lease” sign may be displayed per street frontage.

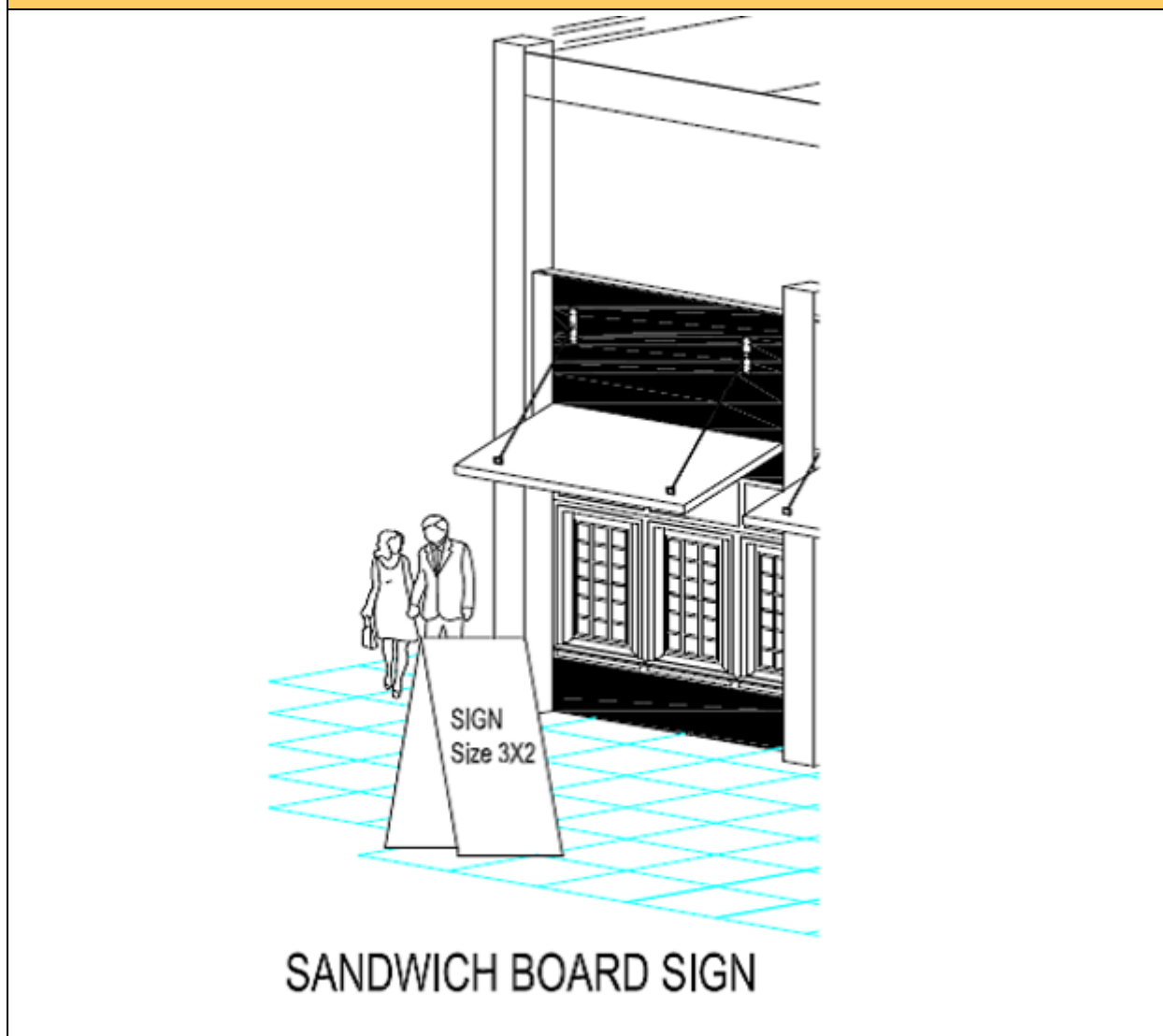
ii. For any business or real estate unit located in the RA-5, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, R-5, R-6, R-8, or RIN zoning districts, no more than three temporary portable commercial or real estate signs shall be allowed for each business location or real estate unit offered for sale or lease. For each single-family residential site, one temporary freestanding “for sale” or “for lease” sign may be displayed per street frontage.

iii. For any business or real estate unit located in the R-12, R-18, R-20, or R-30 zoning districts, no more than one temporary portable commercial or real estate sign shall be allowed for each business location or real estate unit offered for sale or lease, provided that a maximum of one temporary portable sign shall be allowed for any multi-unit residential apartment or condominium complex notwithstanding the number of rental or dwelling units therein currently available for sale or lease. For each multi-unit residential apartment or condominium complex, one temporary freestanding “for sale” or “for lease” sign may be displayed per street frontage.

iv. For any construction site located in any zoning district within the City limits, no more than two temporary construction signs shall be allowed for each construction project site.

b. Size.

Figure 21.44.010I
Sandwich Board Sign



- i. Commercial and real estate temporary portable signs shall not exceed six square feet per sign face, and no such sign shall contain more than two sign faces. Commercial and real estate temporary portable signs shall not exceed six feet in height, measured from the pre-existing ground level to the top of the sign.
- ii. Temporary construction signs in the UR, DT, NC, GC, OV, ODD, OBAT, RR, BCDD, BP, MP, I, R-12, R-18, R-20, and R-30 zoning districts shall not exceed 32 square feet per sign face, shall not contain more than two sign faces, and shall not exceed 10 feet in height when measured from pre-existing ground level to the top of the sign.
- iii. Temporary construction signs located in the R-1 through R-8 zoning districts, when associated with a subdivision, shall not exceed 32 square feet per sign face, shall not contain more than two sign faces,

and shall not exceed 10 feet in height when measured from pre-existing ground level to the top of the sign.

iv. Temporary construction signs located in the R-1 through R-8 zoning districts, when not associated with a subdivision, shall not exceed six square feet per sign face, shall not contain more than two sign faces, and shall not exceed six feet in height when measured from pre-existing ground level to the top of the sign.

c. Location. No temporary portable commercial, real estate or construction sign shall be located within vehicle lanes, bikeways, trails, sidewalks, or median strips. No temporary portable commercial, real estate, or construction sign shall block driveways or be affixed to utility poles, trees, or traffic signs. Construction temporary signs may be affixed to fencing on a construction site, but no commercial or real estate temporary portable sign shall be affixed to a fence. No temporary portable commercial, real estate, or construction sign shall be strung between trees.

i. Temporary portable commercial, real property, and construction signs may be displayed only if the business, real property, or construction site to which they relate is located within Redmond City limits.

d. Festoons Prohibited. The use of balloons, festoon flags, flags, pennants, lights, or any other stand-alone display or attached display on a commercial, real estate or construction temporary portable sign is prohibited.

e. Animation Prohibited. No commercial, real estate or construction temporary portable sign shall be displayed while being rotated, waved, or otherwise in motion.

f. Duration.

i. Commercial temporary portable signs may be displayed only during the hours when the commercial establishment to which they relate is open for business.

ii. Real estate temporary portable signs may be displayed only during the hours when the real estate to which they relate is the subject of an open house or when a complex manager is available to show the unit.

iii. Temporary construction signs may be displayed only during the period between issuance of construction permits and issuance of a certificate of occupancy or final inspection approval for the construction.

iv. Temporary freestanding real estate signs may be displayed the entire time the underlying property is for sale.

g. Nonconforming Signs – Amortization. All temporary portable signs which are legally nonconforming as of the effective date of this subsection H.1.g shall be removed or brought into compliance. A legally nonconforming sign shall immediately lose its legal nonconforming status and shall be brought into compliance with current regulations whenever.

i. The sign is replaced with another sign; or

ii. A change in copy, placard, or structure occurs; or

iii. The sign requires repairs beyond normal maintenance; or

iv. The sign is expanded or moved.

Normal maintenance, such as cleaning, painting, or repair of broken placards, without any change in copy, is allowed so long as the repairs do not modify the sign structure.

2. Major Land Use Action Notice. Where required, within the RZC, public notice signs which describe proposed major land use actions and public hearing dates are permitted. The sign or signs shall comply with the standards contained within the RZC.

3. Political Signs.

a. On-Premises Signs. On-premises political signs located at the headquarters of a political party, candidate for public elective office, or a public issue decided by ballot are permitted. All on-premises political signs shall comply with the dimensional and locational requirements of the sign district in which located.

b. Off-Premises Signs.

i. Location. Permits for political signs are not required. Political signs may not be placed on private property without the permission of the property owner. Political signs may not be located so as to impede driver vision or represent an obstruction or hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic. On public property not part of the public right-of-way, relevant City departments may designate an area or areas for the placement of political signs in order to ensure that placement will not interfere with the intended use of that land.

ii. Size/Spacing. Political signs shall not exceed six square feet in size. No political sign may exceed six feet in height, measured from the pre-existing ground level to the top of the sign.

iii. Removal of Election Signs. Off-premises political signs shall be removed within seven days of the date of the election to which the sign pertains. Failure to remove political signs within the time limit provided shall constitute a violation of this code and shall be punishable as such. In the event that City personnel are required to remove signs from public rights-of-way after expiration of the time limit for removal, all costs associated with such removal shall be the responsibility of the candidate or campaign organization for whom the sign was posted. The applicable costs shall be collected in addition to any other penalty applicable to failure to remove the sign.

iv. Public Works Projects. The Public Works Department may remove signs from public rights-of-way in order to conduct periodic maintenance activities. Signs removed for this purpose may be picked up at the City's Maintenance and Operations Center and returned to their prior location if still within the removal deadline. The Public Works Department may permanently remove political signs from public rights-of-way for the purpose of carrying out major public works projects. Political signs removed for this purpose will be held and made available for pickup at the City's Maintenance and Operations Center until 14 days following the next election.

v. Removal of Signs in Disrepair. The Public Works Department may remove any sign which is in a state of disrepair from the public right-of-way or public property at any time. For purposes of this subsection,

a sign is in a state of disrepair if it is ripped, torn, broken, faded, obliterated, obscured, dilapidated, blown down, knocked over, or in any other state in which its message has ceased to be readable or legible.

4. Temporary Window Signs. Temporary window signs shall not be included in the sign area for each facade.
5. Signs on Kiosks. Temporary signs on kiosks are permitted, but the signs shall not exceed four square feet in area.
6. Temporary Uses and Secondary Uses of Schools, Churches, or Community Buildings. Temporary signs relating directly to allowed temporary uses under these regulations and secondary uses of schools, churches, or community buildings may be permitted for a period not to exceed the operation of the use. The signs need not be processed through the ~~Design Review Board~~ Technical Committee and are subject to the following requirements:
 - a. Signs must be portable in nature.
 - b. No more than one on-premises sign and one off-premises sign shall be permitted per temporary use, except by virtue of having been in consistent operation prior to the existence of this chapter, and due to the fact numerous individual operators participate in the operation, the open-air crafts and farmers market, commonly known as the Saturday Market, shall be allowed two on-premises signs in addition to one off-premises sign.
 - c. No sign shall exceed six square feet per sign face.
 - d. Maximum sign height shall be six feet measured from the pre-existing ground level to the top of the sign.
 - e. Signs shall not be portable readerboard types, electrical, or neon. Only indirect lighting is allowed.
 - f. Sandwich board or "A" board signs may be used in compliance with this subsection. Temporary Uses and Secondary Use of Schools, Churches, or Community Buildings, provided they are used only during the days the temporary or secondary use occurs and are removed after the use ceases for each day.
7. Any temporary sign not otherwise provided for under subsections H.1 through H.6 of this section shall meet the requirements for commercial signs set forth in subsection H.1 of this section.
8. This section shall not be construed as permitting any sign otherwise prohibited.
- I. Sign Program.
 1. Purpose and Intent. A Sign Program is intended to integrate the design and placement of signs proposed within a multi-tenant or multi-building development project. A Sign Program provides a means for defining common sign regulations for multi-tenant projects to encourage maximum incentive and latitude in the design and display of multiple signs and to achieve, not circumvent, the intent of this chapter.

2. **Applicability.** The approval of a Sign Program shall be required whenever any of the following circumstances exist, or whenever an applicant requests the approval of a Sign Program:
 - a. Two or more separate tenant spaces are to be created on the same parcel;
 - b. Two or more separate tenant spaces are to be created within the same building;
 - c. Two or more buildings are designed to be created on the same parcel.
3. **Approval Authority.** A Sign Program shall be reviewed and approved, modified, or denied by the **Design Review Board Technical Committee** using the Type I process set forth in the Zoning Code.
4. **Application Requirements.** An application for a Sign Program shall include all information and materials required by the Administrator. At minimum, the following shall be required:
 - a. A vicinity map/site plan.
 - b. Sign Program Text:
 - i. Types of signs permitted (wall, canopy/awning, window, freestanding, sandwich board, etc.).
 - ii. Sign area, letter/sign size, and logo size standards.
 - iii. Types of illumination permitted.
 - iv. Landlord and City approval language (including need for permits).
 - v. Prohibited signs.
 - c. Sign Program Elevation Drawings:
 - i. Each building elevation showing where signage is proposed to be placed.
 - ii. Each monument sign proposed.
5. **Standards.** A Comprehensive Sign Program shall comply with the following standards:
 - a. The program shall comply with the purpose of this chapter: RZC 21.44, Signs, and the overall intent of this section: RZC 21.44.020, Sign Design Standards;
 - b. Signs shall enhance the overall development/project, by being designed and placed with the architecture of the building(s) in mind, as well as creating an attractive and consistent appearance of all the tenant signage in the development/project.
 - c. The Sign Program shall accommodate future revisions that may be required because of changes in use or tenants.
6. **Revisions to Comprehensive Sign Programs.** Revisions to a Sign Program may be approved by the Administrator if the intent of the original approval is not affected. Revisions that would substantially deviate from the original approval shall require the review and approval of a new Sign Program.
- J. **Removal and Disposal of Illegal Signs.** Repealed.

(Ord. 2614; Ord. 2652; Ord. 2657; Ord. 3028; Ord. 3083)

Effective on: 7/2/2022

21.44.020 Sign Design Standards.

A. Purpose and Intent. The purpose and intent of this section is to:

1. Establish design standards for sign design to guide preparation and review of all applicable development applications;
2. Ensure that sign design proposals adhere to the intent and purpose of the RZC in relation to signs;
3. Ensure that building and site signs are of a character and scale that is appropriate to their use and to the site;
4. Ensure that sign scale, orientation and lighting do not adversely impact the natural and aesthetic qualities of adjacent critical areas, shorelines, or other natural open space.
5. Assist business owners and sign designers to better understand the City's expectations for well-designed, high-quality signs;
6. Assist those with the responsibility of reviewing sign permit applications to have established criteria with which to judge the appropriateness of a sign's design.
7. Assist decision making by the decision makers in the review of sign and Sign Program applications.

B. Applicability.

1. The Sign Design Standards are applicable to all new signs and Sign Programs and the modification or reconstruction of existing signs throughout the City. The Sign Design Standards will be utilized during the City's review of Sign Permit applications or through the review of other permit applications or Sign Programs, when signs are part of a larger multiple tenant and/or multiple-building project. Signs will be reviewed for their consistency with the Design Standards and the other requirements contained in the Sign Code.
2. The Sign Design Standards are intended to supplement the other provisions of this chapter. The Standards establish criteria for the creation of well-designed signs and further clarify and support the intent of the City's sign regulations.
3. Signs not consistent with the Standards stated herein may be subject to **Design Review Board Technical Committee** review.
4. Signs may not be changed or installed until the Administrator or his or her designee has approved the design and a sign permit (or other approval) has been issued and/or approved.

C. Compliance.

1. Compliance with Sign Design Standards. Decisions on Sign Permit and/or Sign Program applications requiring design review shall be made as provided in this section:

2. To achieve the Standard's purpose and intent, the Sign Design Standards are divided into the following sections:
 - a. General Sign Design Standards. This section will describe basic sign design standards that are applicable to all signs, regardless of type.
 - b. Design Standards for Specific Sign Types. This section describes design standards specific to sign types.
 3. Each criterion included is meant to indicate the preferred condition, and the criteria together provide a common theme that illustrates the purpose and intent of the Sign Design Standards. Graphics are also provided to clarify the concepts behind the purpose and intent and design criteria. If there is a discrepancy between the text and the illustrations, the text shall prevail.
 4. All applications that require design review shall comply with the purpose and intent of the Sign Design Standards.
 5. If "shall" is used in the design criterion, all applications shall comply with that specific design criterion if it applies to the application unless the applicant demonstrates that an alternate design solution provides an equal or greater level of achieving the intent of the section and the purpose of the design category.
 6. If "should" is used in the design criterion, there is a general expectation that utilizing the criterion will assist in achieving the purpose and intent statement; however, there is recognition that other solutions may be proposed that are equally effective in meeting the purpose and intent of the Sign Design Standards.
 7. The applicant has the burden of proof and persuasion to demonstrate that the application complies with the purpose and intent statement.
 8. Where the decision maker concludes that the application does not comply with the purpose and intent statement or the design criteria that use the word "shall," the decision maker may condition approval based on compliance with some or all of the design criteria, or the decision maker may deny the application.
- D. Administrative Design Flexibility. If the Administrator ~~or Design Review Board~~ makes a recommendation to allow a Sign Permit or Sign Program to deviate from the Sign Design purpose and intent requirements, the recommendation shall be based on the following:
1. The application of certain provisions of the RZC would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the underlying zone and of the design standards.
 2. Permitting a minor variation will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the area.
 3. Permitting a minor variation will not be contrary to the objectives of the design standards.
 4. The minor variation protects the integrity of a historic landmark or the historic design subarea.

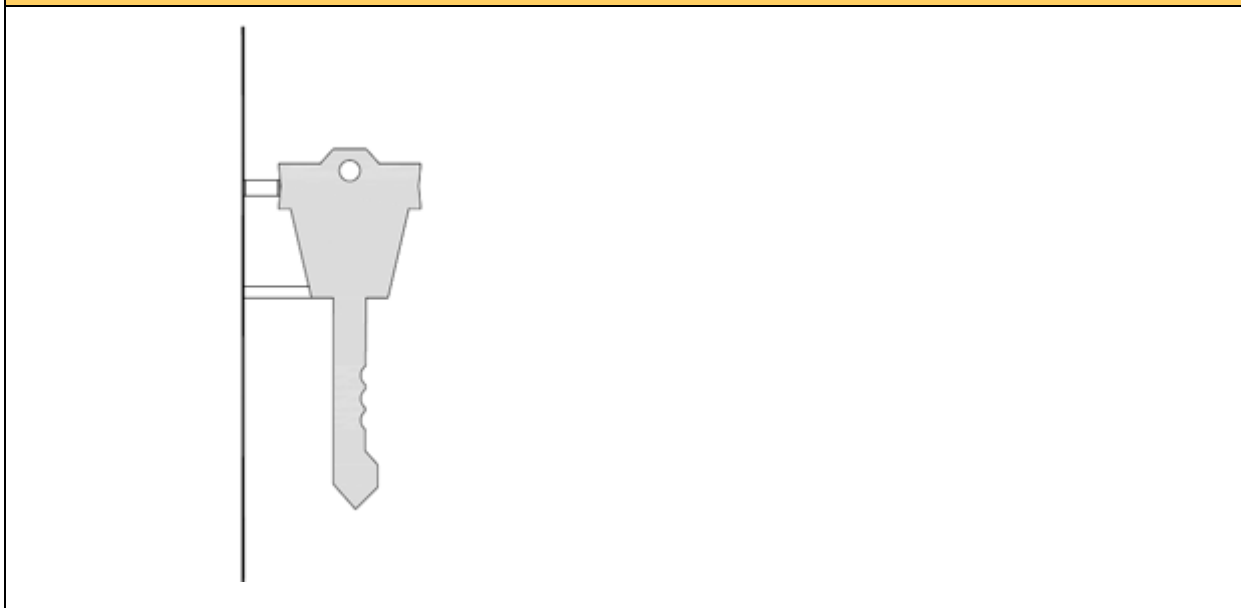
E. General Sign Design Standards.

1. Purpose. This section provides basic design guidance for all signs, regardless of specific type or location within the community. The guidelines address issues related sign legibility, placement on the facade, color and materials, and effective illumination.
2. Sign Compatibility.
 - a. In a multi-tenant complex, no sign shall dominate the facade, unless the business it advertises is designated a major or anchor tenant by the property owner due to the size of the tenant space as compared with the other tenant spaces.
 - b. Signs shall be designed to be consistent with the building design in terms of relative scale and overall size.
 - c. Signs should complement and not detract from the materials, and colors of the building to which they will be attached.
 - d. All signs should enhance and not detract from the building's architectural design. Signs should reflect the character of the building.
 - e. Signs shall not obscure or cover architectural features of the building.
 - f. For historic landmarks and the Old Town zone, signs should be consistent with the historic character of the landmark and/or zone. Preferred signage in the Old Town zone includes window signage, painted signage on wooden facades, wood signs, signs on awnings, signs lit by sources other than the sign itself, or decorative signs hung perpendicular to the building facade are encouraged. Wood facsimile products may be an acceptable substitute. Use of backlit plastic wall signs, extruded aluminum, changing message, or other newer technology signs should not be allowed. Use of neon signs should be limited to window signs or art deco styled buildings.
 - g. Home businesses shall not have any signage in order to maintain the residential character of the neighborhood in which it is located.
 - h. Sign programs shall be required for all new multiple-tenant buildings and/or multiple building complexes. Sign Programs serve to create a coordinated project theme of uniform design elements, such as lettering style and placement.
 - i. Creative design is encouraged. Imaginative and innovative signs will be allowed as long as the applicant considers the scale proportions and character of signage on the building/site in question. Applicants are also encouraged to consider the scale proportions and character of signage in the surrounding vicinity as well.
 - j. For the Neighborhood Commercial 1 (NC-1) zone, backlit plastic wall signs, extruded aluminum, changing message, neon, or other newer technology signs are prohibited.
3. Sign Legibility.

RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

- a. Use a brief message. Signs should use the fewest words possible. A sign with a brief, succinct message is simpler and faster to read, looks cleaner, and is more attractive. Signs should be used primarily for the purpose of identification or conveying recognition of a particular development or business. The primary sign message shall contain only the business name. If secondary signage is needed to describe the business use, it should be the same size or smaller than the primary business message. Other information, such as product listing, services, slogans, phone numbers, internet information, third-party advertising, etc. shall be placed inside the windows or on permitted temporary signs for communication purposes, rather than on the exterior building facade or on a freestanding or monument sign.
- b. Ensure legibility. An effective sign should do more than attract attention; it should communicate its message clearly, and be ensured to be easy to read.
- c. Use easy-to-read lettering styles. Avoid hard-to-read, intricate typefaces. Typefaces that are difficult to read reduce the sign's ability to communicate.
- d. Avoid spacing letters and words too close together. Crowding of letters, words, or lines will make any sign more difficult to read.
- e. Use significant contrast. If there is little contrast between the brightness or hue of the message of a sign and its background, it will be difficult to read.
- f. Use symbols and logos. Pictographic images will usually register more quickly in the viewer's mind than just a written message. Logos and graphics are encouraged if they meet the purpose and intent of the Sign Design Standards and the sign area allowed under the Sign Code.

Figure 21.44.020A
Sign Symbol



4. Sign Placement/Location/Size.

- a. The architecture of a building often identifies specific locations for signs, and these locations should be used. Signs shall be designed to relate to the architectural features of the building on which they are located and create visual continuity with other storefronts on the same building or on adjacent buildings within the same complex.
- b. A well-designed building facade or storefront is created by careful coordination of sign and architectural design and an overall color scheme.
- c. On multistory buildings, ground floor tenants shall place signs at the storefront level.
- d. On multi-tenant buildings, tenants shall place their signs on exterior building walls where their business is located internally.
- e. Signs on multi-tenant buildings shall be designed and aligned to achieve a consistent and unified appearance with the other signs on the building.
- f. Signs should be placed at or near the public entrance of the business in order to indicate the most direct access to the business.
- g. Signs should be placed consistent with the proportions of the building's facade.
- h. The overall size of a wall-mounted sign and the height of its lettering should consider the distance the sign is from the street and its ability to be seen clearly. Signs close to the street are more visible and therefore should use a smaller letter size than signs that are set back from the street. Signs facing SR 520 shall comply with the SR 520 Corridor Signage Policy adopted by the City Council.
- i. The size of the letters, as well as the overall size of the sign should be proportional to the building's facade. Sign users should not overwhelm the reader with sheer size but should convey a message efficiently while at the same time design signs to fit with the overall scale of the building and its relationship to the street.
- j. Signs shall not project above the edge of the rooflines and shall not obstruct windows and/or doorways.

Figure 21.44.020B

Maximum Sign Height – Front View

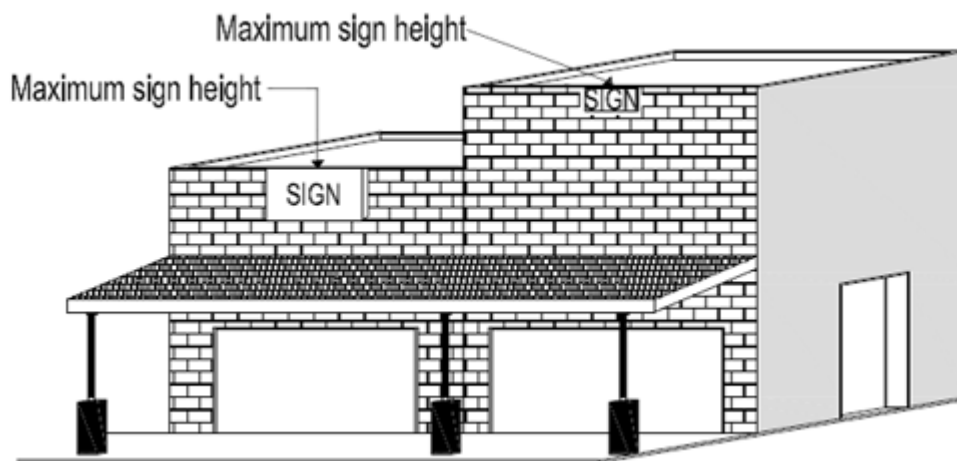
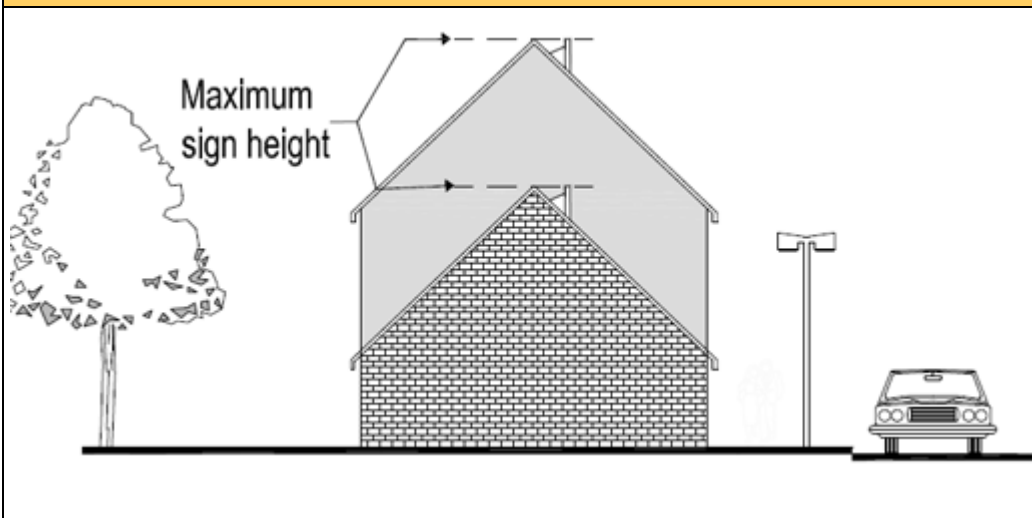


Figure 21.44.020C

Maximum Sign Height – Side View



k. Signs shall be designed and located so that they have minimal impact on adjacent residential neighborhoods.

l. The shape of a sign should strive for simplicity with all elements constituting an integrated design.

5. Sign Color.

a. Use of colors is one of the primary means of visual communication. Excessive and uncoordinated use of colors may confuse and negate the message of the sign. Sign applicants and designers should choose colors that are complementary yet provide good contrast with each other. Bright day-glo (fluorescent) colors should be avoided as they are distracting and do not blend well with other background colors. Excessively bright colors should not be used as a means to attract attention.

b. Sign colors should relate to, complement, and not detract from the materials or color scheme of the buildings, including accent and trim colors.

6. Sign Materials.

a. Sign materials should be selected with consideration for the architectural design of the building's facade. Sign materials should complement the materials on the facade and should contribute to the legibility of the sign.

b. Sign materials should be very durable. When wood is used, it should be properly sealed to keep moisture from soaking into the wood and causing the sign's lettering to deteriorate quickly.

c. Signs should be professionally constructed using high-quality materials.

7. Sign Illumination.

a. Internally illuminated, backlit, halo-illuminated, and other self-illuminated signs or portions of signs are prohibited in the Neighborhood Commercial 1 (NC-1) zone. Signs may be indirectly illuminated, such as with gooseneck lighting, in accordance with this section.

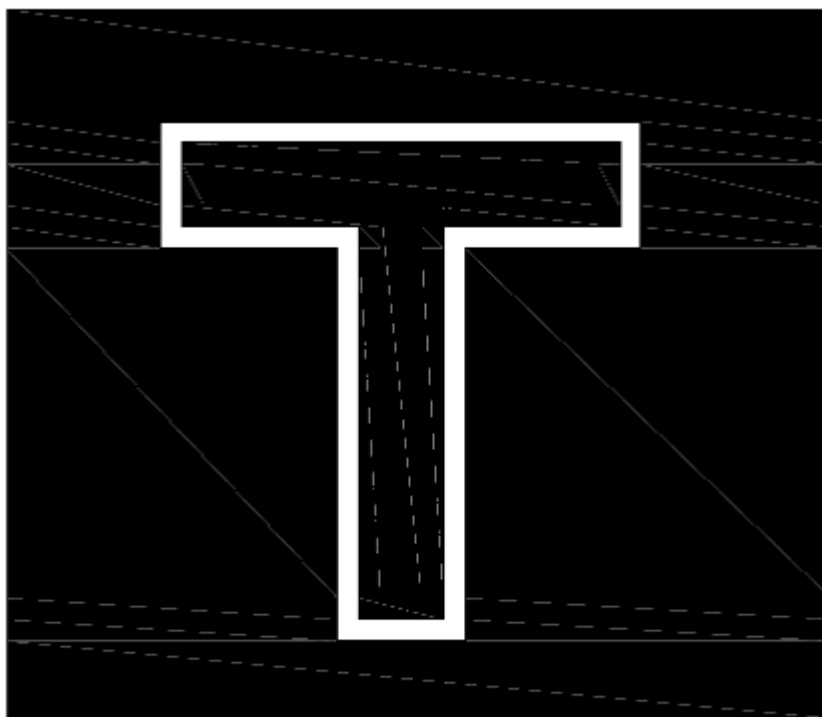
b. Signs that are illuminated by a direct source of light are encouraged (but not required) over internally illuminated cabinet signs.

c. Individually illuminated letters, either internally illuminated or backlighted solid letters (reverse channel), are a preferred alternative and should be considered over internally illuminated plastic-faced cabinet signs.

d. Backlit, halo-lit illumination or individually cut reverse channel letter signs with halo illumination are highly encouraged for lighting purposes and should be considered. Such signs convey a subtle and attractive appearance and are very legible under moderate ambient lighting conditions.

Figure 21.44.020D

Backlit Sign



BACK LIT SIGN

- e. If internally illuminated cabinet signs are used, it is strongly encouraged that the sign panel should be opaque so that when illuminated only the lettering, not the background, is illuminated. It is also encouraged that the background or field should have a non-gloss, non-reflective finish.
- f. Signs that use blinking, rotating, flashing, or reflecting lights are not permitted.
- g. Whenever indirect lighting fixtures are used, care shall be taken to properly shield the light source, especially to prevent glare from spilling over into residential areas and public rights of way.
- h. Signs on building elevations facing or across from public trails, parks, critical areas, or residential developments should not be internally illuminated. Other building elevations facing parking lots or other buildings may be illuminated.
- i. Any wall-mounted or ground-mounted external spotlight should be pointed away from passersby. The light source shall be directed solely at the sign and not towards residential properties, motorists, or pedestrians.

- j. If a raceway cannot be mounted internally behind the finished exterior wall, the exposed metal surfaces of the raceway should be finished or painted to match the background wall, or integrated into the overall design of the sign.
- k. If raceways are necessary, they should be as thin and narrow as possible.
- l. All exposed conduit, wiring, and junction boxes shall be concealed from public view.
- m. Use of energy-efficient, high-intensity discharge lamps should be used over non-energy-efficient lighting.

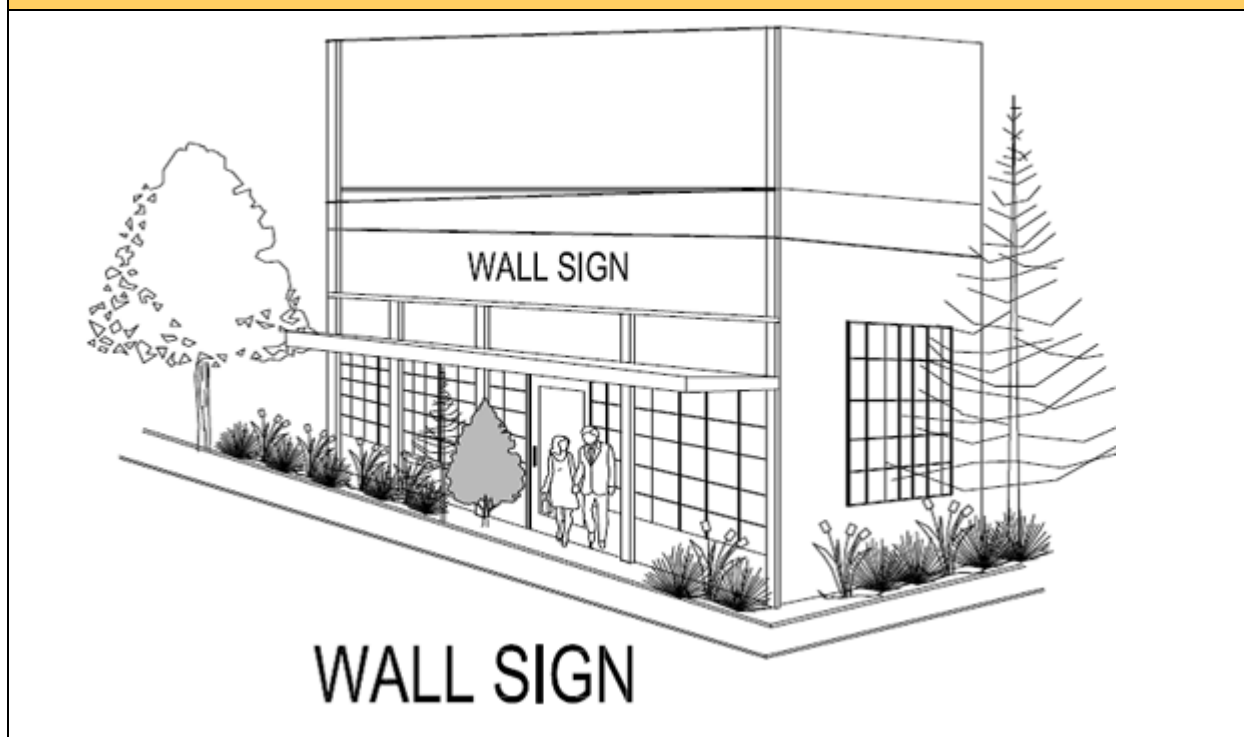
F. Design Standards for Specific Sign Types.

1. Introduction. Each of the various sign types present particular issues that need to be considered. The guidelines in this section address issues of good design, placement, and compatibility for each of the following sign types:

- a. Wall Signs
 - b. Projecting Signs
 - c. Blade Signs (Hanging Signs)
 - d. Awning Signs
 - e. Window Signs
 - f. Monument Signs (Freestanding Signs)
2. Wall Signs.

Figure 21.44.020E

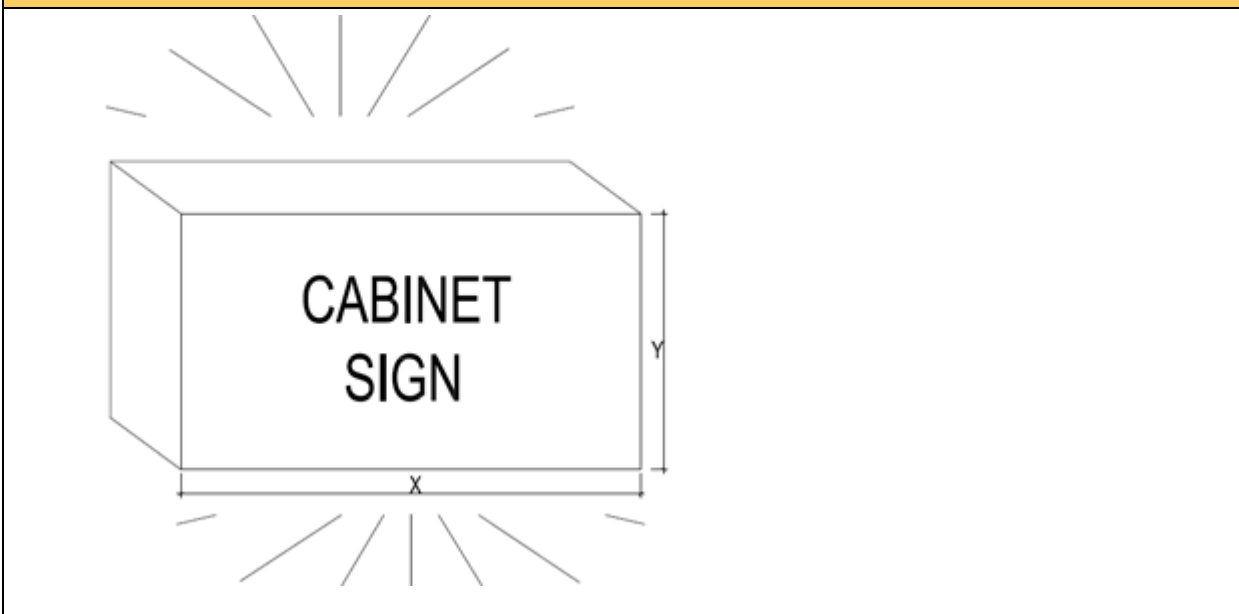
Wall Sign



- a. A wall sign should be located where the architectural features or details of the building suggest a location, size, or shape for the sign. The best location for a wall sign is generally a band or blank area between the first and second floors of a building if the building architecture allows for it.
- b. New wall signs in a multi-tenant building and/or multi-building complex shall be part of an approved Sign Program before being installed. Sign Programs establish visual continuity among storefronts and create a unified appearance for the center.
- c. Wall signs should not project from the surface upon which they are attached more than that required for construction purposes.
- d. Although internally illuminated cabinet-type signs with opaque backgrounds are allowed by the Sign Code, they are strongly discouraged. If signs are to be illuminated, individually cut channel letters or solid backlit letters or the use of external, direct illumination are the preferred methods.

Figure 21.44.020F

Cabinet Sign

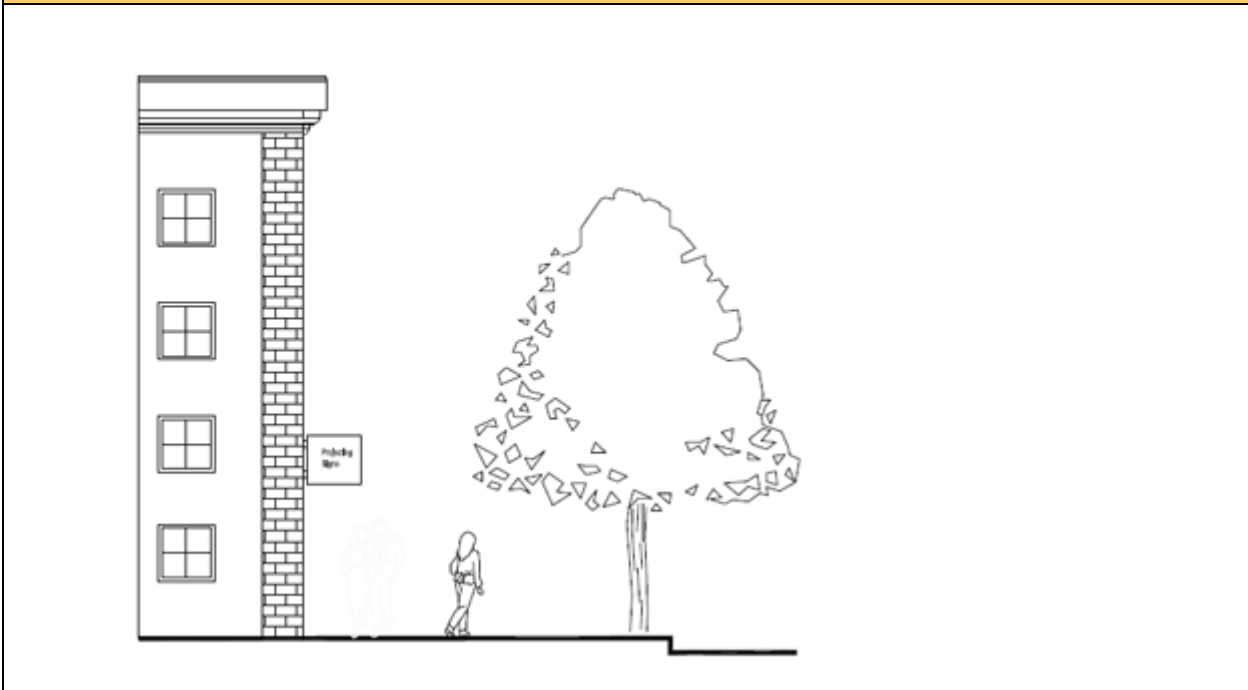


e. Signs should be designed to create a clearly defined edge, provide shadow relief, and an attractive appearance. This effect is generally difficult to achieve by painting a sign directly on a building facade. For this reason, painted signs are generally discouraged.

f. Multiple wall signs along the same facade (for the same tenant) are not permitted. In lieu of this, a perpendicular, pedestrian-oriented sign, such as a bracket sign and/or a blade (hanging sign) may be allowed on the same facade, in addition to the permitted wall sign.

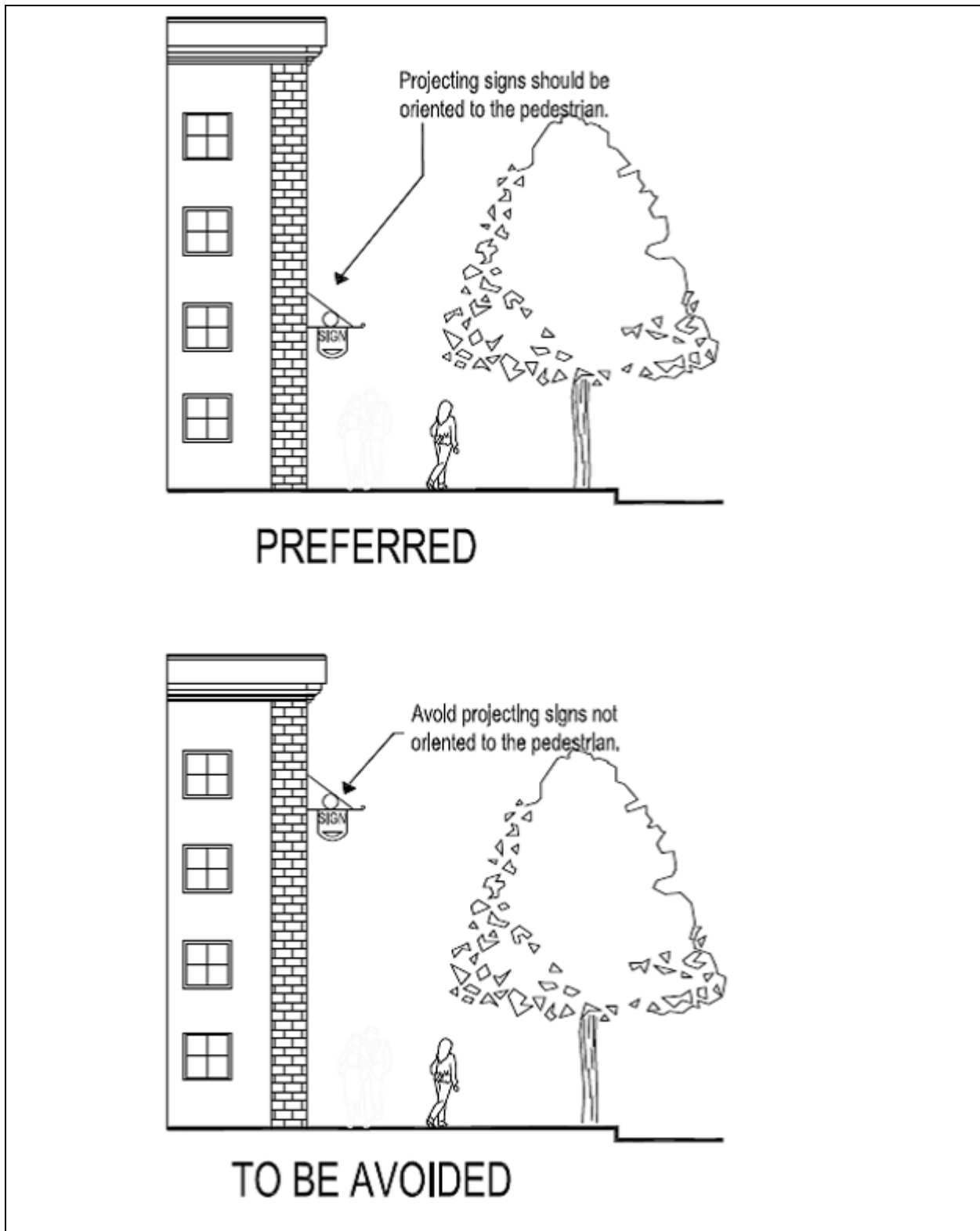
3. Projecting Signs.

Figure 21.44.020G
Projecting Sign



- a. Wall signs are preferred over projecting signs and should be considered in lieu of a projecting sign.
- b. The scale of projecting signs should be consistent with the architectural character of the building.

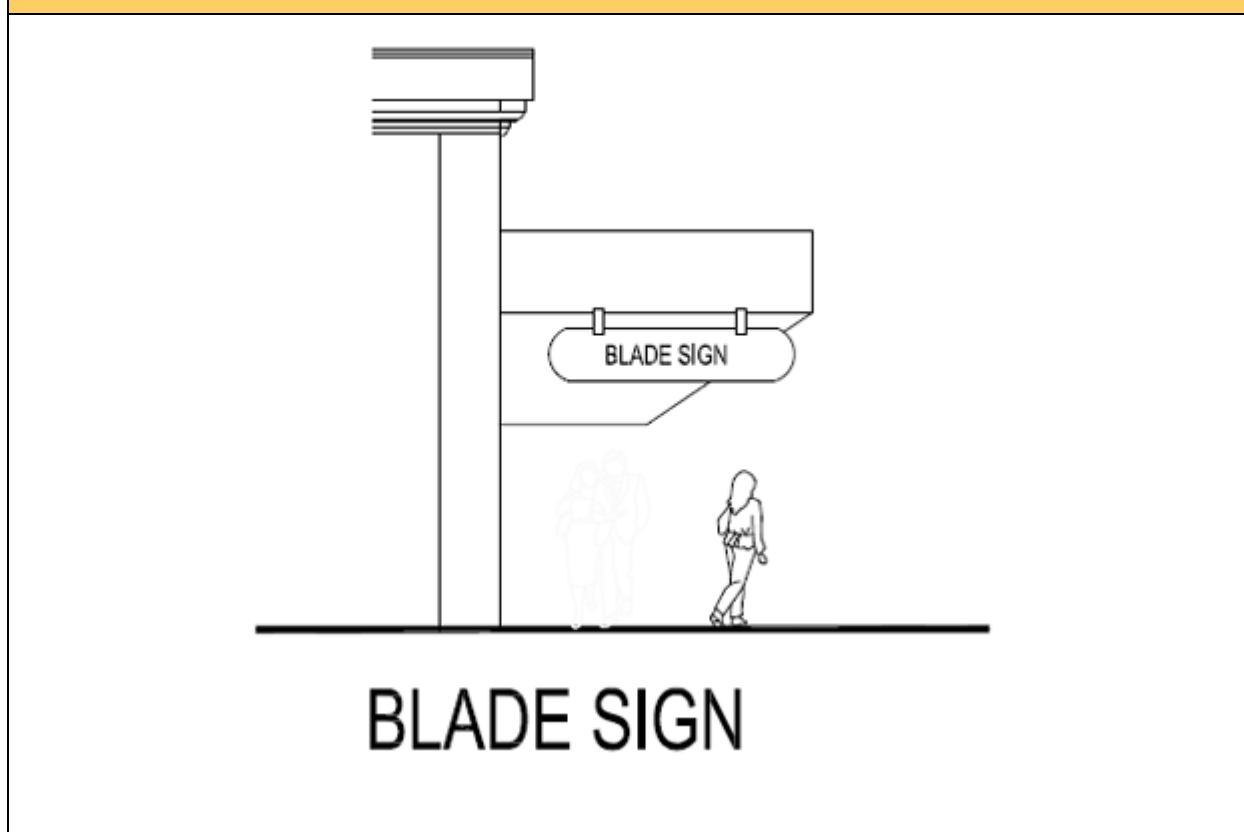
Figure 21.44.020H
Design Standard for Projecting Signs



RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

- c. Sign supports and brackets should be consistent with the design and scale of the sign and the architectural design of the building.
 - d. Projecting signs that identify the occupant business through the use of graphic or crafted symbols, such as shoes, keys, glasses, bicycles, fish, coffee cups, or books are encouraged. A projecting sign meeting the requirements of this section is considered a bracket sign if it is six square feet or smaller.
 - e. External illumination of projecting signs is encouraged.
4. Blade Signs (Hanging Signs).

Figure 21.44.0201
Blade Sign



- a. Where overhangs or covered walkways exist, pedestrian-oriented blade signs (hanging signs) are encouraged. Signs should be hung over the pedestrian right-of-way consistent with all applicable codes.
- b. Blade signs (hanging signs) should be simple in design and should be considered secondary with any other allowed signage on-site, such as wall signs.
- c. Blade signs (hanging signs) that identify the occupant business through the use of graphic or crafted symbols, such as shoes, keys, glasses, bicycles, fish, coffee cups, or books are encouraged.
- d. Supporting brackets and braces should be simple in design and in proportion with the size of the sign they support.

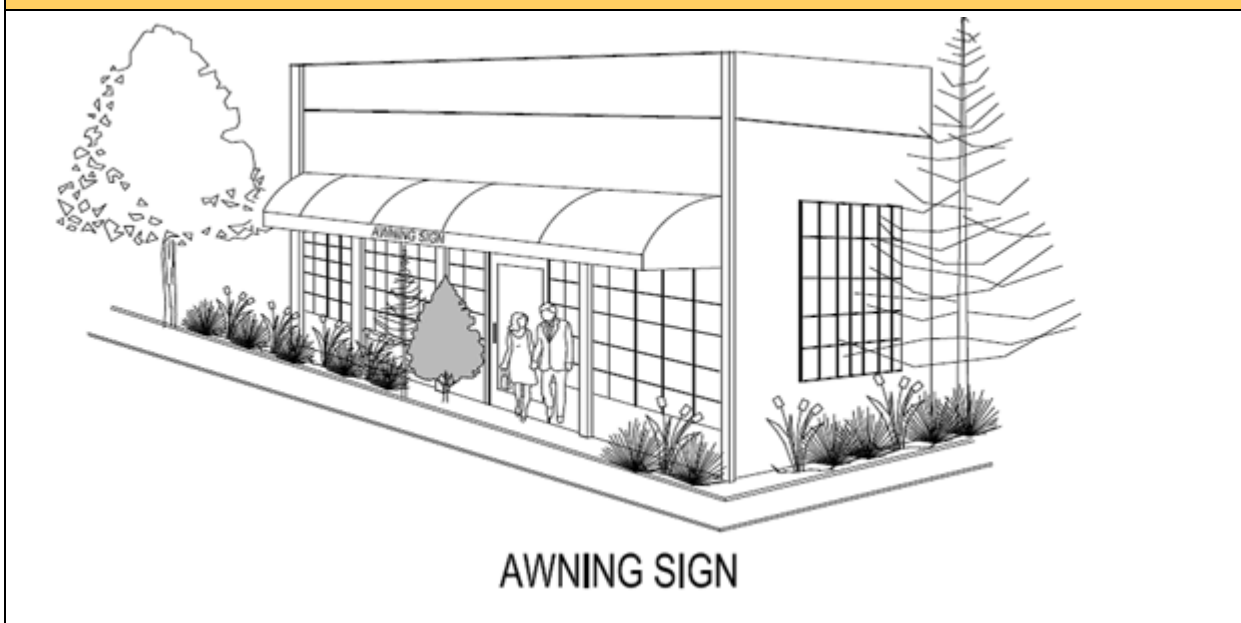
RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

e. External illumination of blade signs (hanging signs) is encouraged.

5. Awning Signs.

Figure 21.44.020J

Design Standard for Awning Signs

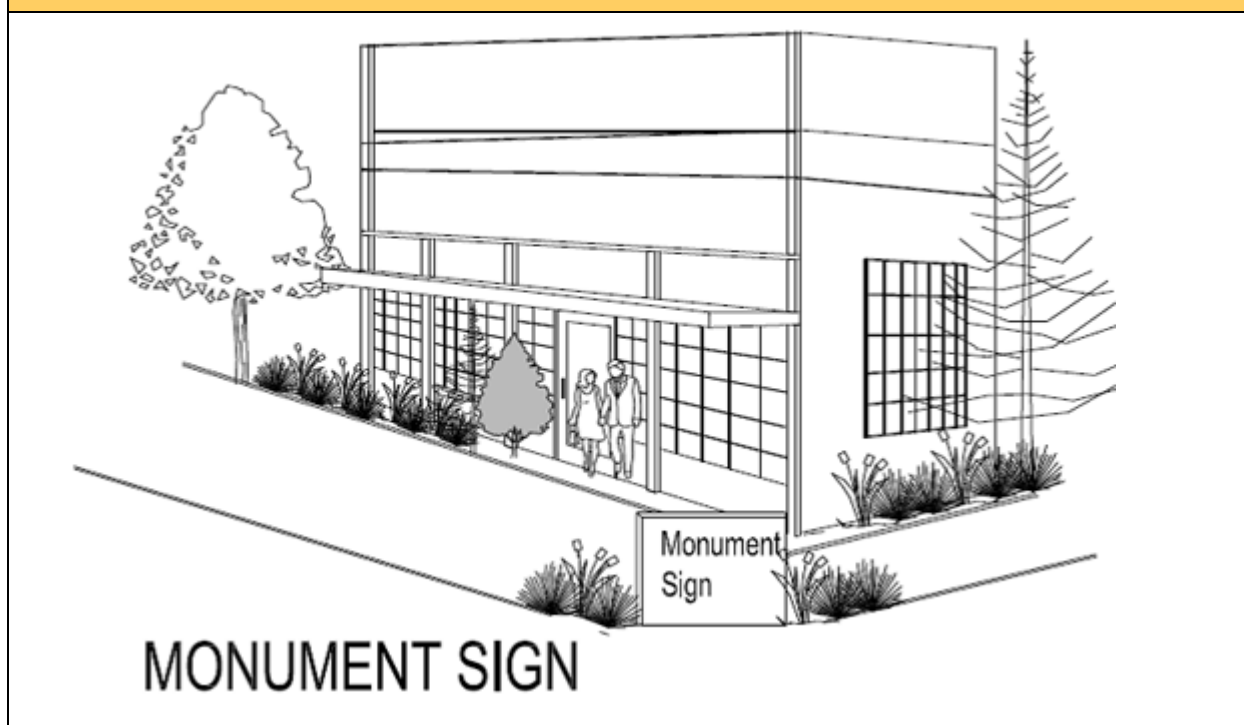


- a. Signs on awnings should generally be limited to ground floor and second floor uses only.
 - b. The text of the sign should be located only on the valance/edge portion of the awning. Letter color should be complementary to the awning and the building color scheme.
 - c. The shape, design, and color of the awnings should be carefully designed to coordinate with, and not dominate, the architectural style of the building. Where multiple awnings are used on the building, the design and color of the sign awnings should be consistent with all other awnings.
 - d. Backlit, internally illuminated awnings are strongly discouraged. If an awning is internally illuminated, only the sign message area shall be illuminated, not the entire awning. Lighting directed downward that does not illuminate the awning is allowed for pedestrian lighting and security purposes.
 - e. Awnings with a solid color are preferred. Striped awnings may be appropriate for some buildings without ornamental facades. Striped awnings with highly contrasting, bright colors are strongly discouraged.
 - f. Multiple signs on awnings on a single facade are not permitted.
 - i. Awnings and signs on awnings should be regularly cleaned and kept free of dust and visible defects.
- #### 6. Window Signs.

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- a. Window signs (permanent or temporary) are strongly encouraged not to completely block all views into the business. This is not only good for business, but it also increases visibility for security and safety purposes.
 - b. Window graphics, with no copy or lettering, may be used, with City approval, to cover or completely cover windows. The City would encourage that there be other windows that have no window signage in them for security and safety purposes.
 - c. Window sign decals should be primarily individual letters placed on the interior surface of the window and intended to be viewed from outside. Glass-mounted graphics may be applied by painting, silk screening, or vinyl die-cut forms.
7. Monument (Freestanding) Signs.

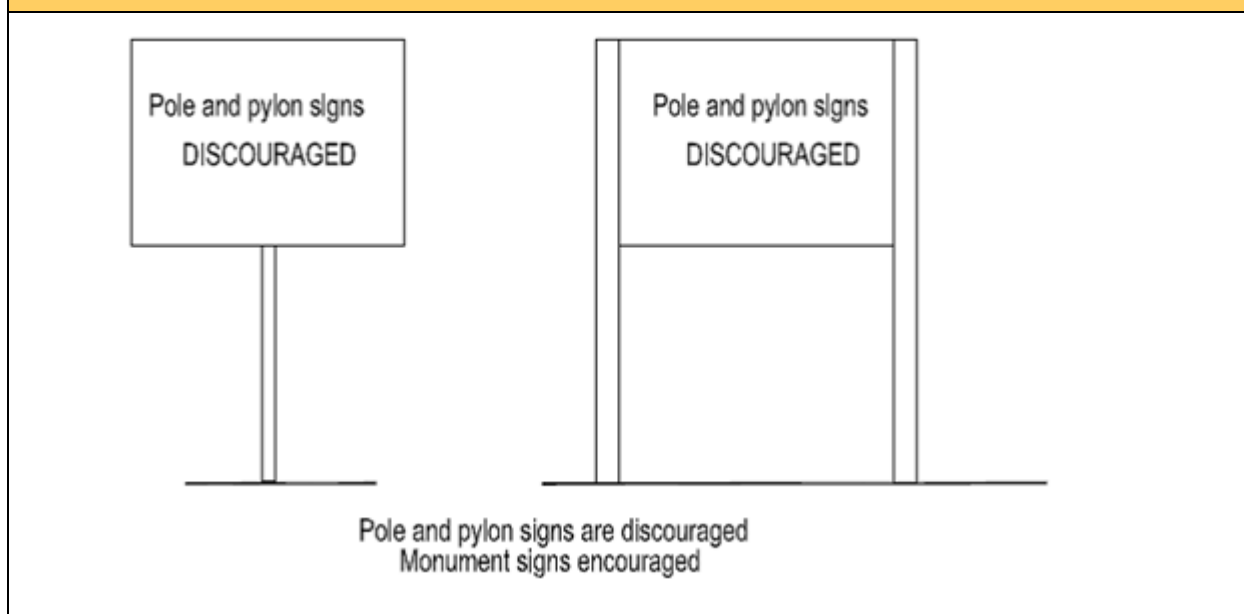
Figure 21.44.020K
Monument Sign



- a. Freestanding monument-type signs (on the ground) are strongly encouraged and should be considered over signs mounted on poles (pole signs).

Figure 21.44.020L

Design Standard for Monument Signs



- b. Monument signs may be internally illuminated; however, it is encouraged that the sign copy should be the only portion of the sign face that is illuminated. The sign background or field is encouraged to be opaque with a non-gloss, non-reflective finish, wherever possible.
- c. The sign area and height of the sign should be in proportion to the site and surrounding buildings. Signs should not be so large as to be a dominant feature of the site.
- d. Monument signs shall be placed so that sight lines at entry driveways and circulation aisles are not blocked.
- e. Monument signs that are externally illuminated, either with light cast directly on to the sign or with individually backlit letters, or stenciled panels with three-dimensional push-through graphics should be considered as an alternative.
- f. Monument signs should be designed to create visual interest and complement their surroundings. Monument signs should incorporate architectural elements, details, and articulation when possible.
- g. Monument signs should incorporate landscaping at their base.
- h. Berming shall not be used to exceed the maximum allowable height of signs.
- i. Freestanding signs should be sited so that they integrate with the location of street trees and other site landscaping, and to avoid obscuring the view of adjacent freestanding signs. (Ord. 2614; Ord. 3083)

Effective on: 7/2/2022

The Redmond Zoning Code is current through Ordinance 3158, passed February 20, 2024.

RZCRW Phase 2 (Redmond 2050): Amendments to align with new Neighborhood Residential zoning district.

Disclaimer: The City Clerk's Office has the official version of the Redmond Zoning Code. Users should contact the City Clerk's Office for ordinances passed subsequent to the ordinance cited above.

City Website: www.redmond.gov

Hosted by General Code.