

Sign Regulations

The City of Greensboro regulates signage as a means to limit potential hazards to pedestrian and vehicular traffic and preserve property values by preventing unsightly and cluttered development, while providing adequate business identification and advertising opportunities.

This brochure is intended to be a quick reference guide for persons wishing to operate a business or other non-residential use in the City of Greensboro.

You may find sign standards in full on the City's website www.greensboro-nc.gov/lto. Article 30-14.



Example of an illegal sign

City of Greensboro
Planning Department
PO Box 3136
Greensboro NC 27402-3136

Address Correction Requested



Signs for Businesses in the City of Greensboro



Planning Department

*"Promoting Quality Growth
throughout Greensboro"*

Phone: 336-373-2144
www.greensboro-nc.gov



Sign Permitting Process

Most signs require a sign permit, with some exceptions.

A completed application includes:

- illustrations showing dimensions
- locations of all existing and proposed signs
- public rights of way

The application will be reviewed by zoning staff to see if the application meets the LDO requirements. A site inspection of existing conditions will be also done before the permit is issued. This inspection prevents any oversights that may have been omitted on the application and prevents any errors that may result in removal of any new signs. An electrical permit is required if a sign will be illuminated and in some cases a building permit may be required.

You can view and download a copy of the City's sign permit application online.

<http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/SignPermit>

Signs that do not require a sign permit are subject to specific standards.

- Construction signs
- Directional signs
- Flags
- Historical or Memorial signs
- Home Occupation signs
- Instructional signs
- Warning signs
- Window signs
- On-site Real Estate signs advertising that property



Signs not visible from a public right of way and certain other types of signage are exempt from sign regulations. See Section 30-14-5 of the City's Land Development Ordinance (LDO).

Prohibited signs

The following signs are prohibited in all zoning districts.

- Windblown signs/devices
- Balloons
- Moving signs
- Portable signs legible from public rights of way
- Signs attached to or painted on a vehicle in view of the public rights of way
- Signs on trees or rocks
- Strobe or flashing lights
- Series of 2 or more signs with same message
- Signs that cause a sight obstruction at any street or driveway



Windblown Signs are prohibited

Enforcement Procedure

When the City inspector determines there is a violation of the ordinance, the inspector will notify the owner or tenant. If the violation is not corrected promptly, the inspector will issue a Notice of Violation.

The Notice of Violation will include:

- The address of the violation
- Nature of the violation
- The remedies to correct the violation
- Penalties for not correcting
- The right to appeal the notice

The owner or tenant will be given 30 days to either correct the violation or appeal the Notice of Violation to the Board of Adjustment. The inspector will re-inspect after the 30 days and if the violation is not corrected, a civil penalty will be issued. For each day the violation is not corrected, the violator will be guilty of additional and separate violation. The civil penalties are as follows:

- \$50 for the first violation
- \$100 for the second violation
- \$200 for the third violation
- \$500 for the fourth and each succeeding violation.

Repeat Violations

If an owner or tenant repeats the same violation within a 5 year period of the initial violation, the repeat violation will be considered a continuation of the initial violation and subject immediately to civil penalty.