

What about sign removal on the weekends?

Periodically, code enforcement conducts weekend sign enforcement, where the focus is on unauthorized signs placed on city property or within street rights-of-way that create potential public safety hazards. Temporary signs that are placed in a street right-of-way within a distance of six (6) feet from the curb or edge of pavement and within traffic islands and medians pose the greatest potential for safety hazards and will be removed.

Temporary signs that are located off-site, outside a street right-of-way, or where the entire sign is at a distance six (6) feet or greater from the curb or edge of pavement are not removed; however, the location of the sign is recorded and a follow-up inspection will occur during the workweek. If the temporary sign is still in violation on re-inspection, it will be subject to removal and other penalties.

In addition, any temporary sign attached to utility poles, fire hydrants, utility boxes/cabinets, and street signs within the street right-of-way will be removed regardless of the distance from the street.

How do I know where the street right-of-way is located?

A street right-of-way contains the street, sidewalks, traffic islands, medians and the landscaped/grassed areas between the edge of street and private property.

To locate the boundary of a street right-of-way, you can utilize certain utility appurtenances to approximate the boundary line between public and private property. These appurtenances, which include utility poles, fire hydrants, utility boxes/cabinets, concrete right-of-way markers, street signs, traffic signs and sidewalks, are typically located within the street right-of-way. Thus, the external boundary of a street right-of-way is behind the farthest appurtenance as measured from the edge of street.

Behind this boundary line is where the private property begins and where temporary sign can be placed. For example, if there is a street sign and further back from the edge of street pavement there are utility poles, then the external boundary of the street right-of-way is behind the utility poles. Be advised that the right-of-way varies from street to street.

Should there be any confusion or doubt on sign placement, please utilize the city's on-line mapping application, called CHP Map, at http://pdweb.high-point.net/website/chp_map/ or contact the Planning & Development Department at 883-3328.



Planning & Development

Inspection Services Division



For information on temporary signs and other signage, please contact the Planning & Development Department at 883-3328. This information is also available online at www.high-point.net/plan 5/1/09

Understanding Temporary Signs

Purpose

The City of High Point regulates both permanent and temporary signs. The purpose of the regulations is to allow for effective visual communication, to promote a positive community appearance, to maintain and enhance the community's aesthetic environment, to protect the public from damage or injury, and to protect existing property values.

The following information should assist you in the placement of temporary signs within the City of High Point.

What is a temporary sign?

Those signs displayed for a limited period of time and not permanently mounted. They include real estate, construction, yard sale and political signs as well as those signs that convey religious, philosophical, or educational messages.

Do I need a permit before erecting a temporary sign?

A permit is not required, except for special promotional signs, however there are certain requirements, time limits and placement conditions that the temporary sign must meet. Contact Planning & Development for further information on special promotional signs.

What are the specific requirements the sign must meet?

Dependent upon the zoning district in which the sign is placed, it must meet certain specifications.

All Zoning Districts

Temporary signs must be located on-site, outside any street right-of-ways and the signs cannot be illuminated.

Residential Districts

Signs cannot exceed 6 square feet in area and 6 feet in height.

Only one temporary sign per street frontage is allowed on a lot; this does not include political signs, which are limited to a maximum of 6 signs per lot.

Nonresidential Districts

One sign is allowed per street frontage that cannot exceed 100 square feet and 12 feet in height.

Subdivision Construction Signs

One sign is allowed per street frontage that cannot exceed 100 square feet and 12 feet in height.

What is the time limit for citizens to remove temporary signs?

Real estate signs – Must be removed within 7 days at the end of construction, sale or lease of the property.

Yard sale signs – Posted for a duration of 3 days.

Political signs – Must be removed within 7 days after the election.

Where can you place temporary signs?

Temporary signs are to be placed on the site of the advertised activity, thus on private property and not within street rights-of-way.

Temporary signs **cannot** be legally posted:

- Off-site;
- Within street rights-of-way and
- On utility appurtenances within the right-of-way, such as utility poles, fire hydrants, utility boxes/cabinets, and street signs.

Most violations of temporary signs are due to the illegal placement of signs in street rights-of-way.

What happens if a sign is placed illegally within the right-of-way or on utility poles?

City ordinance allows for the confiscation of any unauthorized sign placed on city property or within a street right-of-way. Code enforcement staff, as a part of their weekly responsibilities, will remove signs placed illegally within the street right-of-way.

What happens to my sign if it is removed?

Signs removed by the City that are in good condition and which are reusable, such as a metal or corrugated plastic, are held for a minimum of 30 days, but all other signs are disposed. For those signs held, there is a \$15 fee per sign for the owner to reclaim it from the Planning & Development Department.

Are there any other penalties?

Violator(s) may be given a written notice of a sign violation. A violator that fails to comply with the written notice may be subject to the issuance of civil penalties, which are:

\$25.00 for the 1st violation;

\$50.00 for the 2nd violation;

\$100.00 for the 3rd violation; and

\$200.00 for the 4th violation & each violation thereafter.

Each sign or location may be considered a separate offense.

