

The information in this document is for guidance purposes only. Please refer to the Development Standards and Regulations for the complete set of the county's official regulations.



ADAMS COUNTY
COLORADO

SIGNS

General Permit Requirements

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



IS A PERMIT NEEDED?



YES

Individual letters
Illuminated signs
Multi-faced signs
Sculptural signs
Building-mounted signs
Freestanding signs
Electronic signs
Off-site directional signs



NO, BUT INQUIRE FOR SPECIFIC RULES

Most flags
Art
Merchandise
Vehicular signs
Cornerstones
Menu display boxes
Signs not legible from property lines
Address numbers
Most small residential signs
Pennants
Official notices
Warning signs
Election signs
Real estate signs
Temporary signs

HOW MANY SIGNS ARE ALLOWED?



Only one freestanding sign for lots or parcels with less than 500 feet of frontage along streets.



Up to two freestanding signs for lots or parcels with more than 500 feet of frontage along streets.



Only one building-mounted sign per street frontage or commercial/industrial tenant.

HOW LARGE CAN THE SIGN BE?

Before that question can be answered, you'll need to know what zone district the sign will be in.

ZONE DISTRICTS	ZONE DISTRICTS	ZONE DISTRICTS
C-3, C-4, or C-5	Agricultural, Industrial, C-0, C-1, or C-2	R-3, R-4, CO, PL, or MH
FREESTANDING SIGNS Max. Height: 36 feet Max. Area: 160 square feet	FREESTANDING SIGNS Max. Height: 25 feet Max. Area: 100 square feet	FREESTANDING SIGNS Max. Height: 12 feet Max. Area: 40 square feet
BUILDING-MOUNTED SIGNS Max. Area: 15% of wall	BUILDING-MOUNTED SIGNS Max. Area: 5% of wall	BUILDING-MOUNTED SIGNS Max. Area: 40 square feet

IS LANDSCAPING NEEDED AROUND MY FREESTANDING SIGN?



Yes, at the base of the sign



250% of total sign area

WHAT'S PROHIBITED?

- Signs over a public or private roadway or right-of-way
- Signs that obstruct traffic safety (within sight-distance triangles)
- Signs attached to public infrastructure
- Signs attached to landscaping
- Signs obstructing building and fire safety practices
- Roof-mounted devices and signs
- Advertising devices with search lights or beacons
- Graffiti
- Signs with flashing or blinking lights
- Signs that emit sounds or visible matter
- Signs with animation
- Signs with balloons or pennant devices
- Signs that mechanically move or rotate
- Signs mounted on a vehicle or equipment
- Temporary advertising devices
- Signs painted on storage containers or trailers

OTHER COMMON QUESTIONS...

Sign regulations can be found in Section 4-14 of the Adams County Development Standards & Regulations.

Election Signs

- Allowed only on private property
- Allowed only 30 days before election
- Allowed 10 days after election
- Maximum Area: 32 square feet
- Illumination
- Number of signs limited by lot size

Temporary Signs

- Allowed only on private property
- Maximum Area: 32 square feet
- Displayed only twice a year
- Displayed less than 14 consecutive days
- Multi-tenant properties are limited to five temporary signs at any given time

Yard Sale Signs

- Less than 16 square feet
- Located in public right-of-way
- Located on telephone or utility poles

- Located on hydrants or electrical equipment boxes
- Yard sales limited to two per calendar year

Real Estate Signs

- Allowed only on private property
- Maximum Area: 32 square feet
- Allowed only on subject property
- Illumination
- Number of signs limited by lot size

Electronic Signs

- Each message remains for 10 seconds
- Required mechanism to prevent flashing in a malfunction
- Instantaneous transition
- Animation or video
- Automatic brightness control