

CHAPTER 1 SIGNS.

Subd. 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to protect, insure, maintain and regain the natural and scenic beauty and attractiveness of the roadside throughout Avon. By the construction of public roads, the public has created views to which the public retains a right of view and it is the intent of these standards to prevent the taking of that right. Signs are recognized as accessory uses and are permitted in all districts subject to the regulations of this Ordinance.

Subd. 2. Prohibited Signs.

- A. No sign shall be allowed that is a hazard to the public health, safety, convenience, welfare or that prevents ingress or egress from any door, window or fire escape that tends to accumulate debris as a fire hazard or that is attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
- B. Signs shall not resemble, imitate or approximate the shape, size, form or color of railroad or traffic signs, signals or devices. No sign shall be placed so as to destruct or interfere with traffic visibility or traffic control.
- C. Private signs are prohibited within the public right-of-way of any street or easement.
- D. Signs with rotating beams.
- E. Rotating signs are prohibited.
- F. Signs painted or attached to vehicles where the vehicle is parked on a property and not intended to be moved.

Subd. 3 Regulations.

- A. All signs along state and federal highways shall conform to state and federal sign regulations.
- B. Sign Maintenance.
 - 1. Painting: The owner of any sign shall be required to have such a sign properly painted at least once every two (2) years, if needed, including all parts and supports of the sign, unless such parts or supports are galvanized or otherwise treated to prevent rust.
 - 2. Area Around Signs: The owner, or lessee, of any sign or the owner of the land on which the sign is located shall keep the grass, weeds or other growth cut and the area free from refuse between the sign and the street and also for a distance of six (6) feet behind at the ends of said sign.
- C. Obsolete Signs: Any sign which no longer advertises a bona fide business conducted or a project sold shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building or land upon which the sign may be found, within ten (10) days after written notice from the Zoning Administrator.
- D. Unsafe or Dangerous Signs: Any sign which becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of a building or premises or endangers the public safety shall be taken down and removed by the owner, agent or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure or land upon which the sign is located within ten (10) days after written notification from the Zoning Administrator.

Subd. 4. Exemptions.

- A. The following signs do not require a permit, however, they shall conform to the requirements of this Chapter.
1. Signs for one and two-family residential dwellings identifying the occupant or street address, provided that such signs are less than six (6) square feet in area.
 2. Advertising signs attached to fences within a ballpark.
 3. Pedestrian vehicular traffic and parking directional signs in parking lots, provided such signs are less than eight (8) square feet in area and less than six (6) feet in height.
 4. Public signs, street signs, warning signs or signs of public companies for the purpose of safety.
 5. Signs denoting the architect, engineer, contractor or owners when placed upon a work site. Such signs shall be removed within ten (10) days after completion of construction.
 6. Signs designating candidates seeking public political office, provided that such election sign shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in size. Such signs shall be located on private property, shall not be located so as to obstruct vehicular lines of sign and shall be removed in accordance with state guidelines after the election is held.
 7. Flags, badges or insignia of any governmental agency.
 8. Emergency signs required by any governmental agency.
 9. Temporary real estate signs pertaining only to the sale, rental or development of a lot upon which it is displayed. Such signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet for residential property or twenty-four (24) square feet for other property. One (1) sign shall be permitted for each lot and must be removed within ten (10) days following the sale, lease or development of said property.
 10. Banners placed on private property for advertising of a special sales event or grand opening. Such banners shall contain no advertising.
 11. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into or attached to any masonry surface or incombustible material, provided the sign does not exceed six (6) square feet in area.
 12. Home occupation signs, non-illuminated, attached to the wall of a dwelling and not exceeding six (6) square feet in area.

Subd. 5. Permitted Signs.

- A. The following signs are permitted in the A-1, R-1, R-2, R-3, R-MH Districts.
1. Signs over show windows or doors of non-conforming businesses establishments announcing without display or elaboration only the names and occupation of the proprietor and not to exceed three (3) feet in height and twenty (20) feet in length.
 2. Bulletin boards for public, charitable or religious institutions not to exceed twenty (20) square feet in an area located on the premises.

3. Religious uses, public institutions, non-residential and residential development signs not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area. Such identification signs may be wall or ground mounted or combination thereof. A ground sign shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height. There may be a second sign if the use abuts two (2) or more streets. On-premise signs to be located in R-3 along I-94.
4. All signs shall be set back a minimum of five (5) feet from property lines and shall not be located within thirty (30) feet of an intersection.
5. Roof signs are prohibited.
6. Signs with flashing illumination are prohibited.

Subd. 6. Permitted Signs.

- A. The following signs are permitted in the C-1, C-2, C-2/I-94, I and I-2 Districts.
 1. Signs that are placed on the exterior walls of buildings shall not extend more than twelve (12) inches from a building's wall surface, shall not exceed 10% of the wall area, placed at a minimum of eight (8) feet from the ground level and shall not exceed thirty (30) feet in height above the average centerline grade of the street it fronts.
 2. The maximum total signage area of all signs and franchise architecture should not exceed more than three times the front lineal frontage of the lot.
 3. Ground and pole signs which do not exceed thirty (30) feet in height above the average centerline street grade, shall meet all yard requirements for the district in which it is located, shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet on one side nor two hundred (200) square feet on all sides for any one (1) premises.
 4. Projecting signs (which are signs attached to a building that project out perpendicular to the building) which provide a minimum undersign clearance of at least ten (10) feet and which do not project more than forty-eight (48) inches over a sidewalk and shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet.
 5. C-1 (Right of Way on CR 9) Existing projecting signs (which are signs attached to a building that project out perpendicular to the building) which provide a minimum undersign clearance of at least ten (10) feet and which do not project more than forty-eight (48) inches over a sidewalk and shall not exceed twenty (20) feet. **NOTE: NO NEW PROJECTING SIGNS ALLOWED PER STEARNS COUNTY.**
 6. Off-premise advertising signs (billboards) shall only be permitted in the C-2 / I-94 and I-1 Districts. These signs shall not exceed six hundred seventy two (672) square feet in area. Off-premise advertising signs shall be setback a minimum of five (5) feet from the property line/right of way, must not be located within thirty (30) feet of an intersection and shall not be located within one hundred (100) feet of any church, school or designated recreation area. The height of the billboard sign shall not exceed fifty (50) feet. The setback between signs should be five hundred (500) feet. The setback between interchangeable static signs should be two thousand (2,000) feet with the option of regular billboards in between. All interchangeable static signs should be continuous (not flashing). (Reference Chapter 19 "Signs").
 7. Roof signs may not exceed 50% of the length of the building and 25% of the height. Any signs that are in place prior to the passing of this ordinance will be grandfathered.
 8. Signs with flashing illumination are permitted

Subd. 7. *Signs within the Shoreland Overlay District.*

- A. Signs within the Shoreland Overlay District shall be subject to signage provisions applicable to the underlying zoning classification.
- B. Uses that depend on patrons arriving by watercraft may use signs and lighting to convey needed information to the public, subject to the following general standards:
 - 1. No advertising signs may be placed in or upon public waters, informational and/or safety signs may be placed in or on public waters by a public authority or under a permit issued by the county sheriff.