

SIGN REGULATIONS IN NORMAN

The City of Norman has adopted ordinances that regulate many types of signs. Permits are required before **any** sign (other than regular real estate or political signs) can be installed, placed, or used. Please call 366-5432 for the Permit Counter, and a staff member will be happy to address any questions. The owner of the property, tenant, or a licensed sign contractor can make an application for a sign permit. In some cases, certain signs are prohibited and may not be used. For informational purposes, here is a list of many common signs that are used in Norman, and the regulations that govern them.

ANY SIGN IN THE RIGHTS-OF-WAY OR OFF YOUR PROPERTY – No sign of **any** kind can be erected which is within the public right-of-way, generally defined as that area between the sidewalk and the edge of the street or road. The two exceptions to this rule are political signs no larger than 30” wide & 20” tall and then only in the front yard of a single family dwelling and “limited license” signage that is issued for festivals or public events. When no sidewalk is present, property lines are approximately 15 feet from the curb or edge of the street. Signs are also never allowed in sight triangles at intersections (including those areas where private drives intersect with city streets). Signs in these areas **are subject to removal** by city staff without notice to the property owner, because they can obstruct the vision of the traveling public or interfere with pedestrian movement.

TEMPORARY SIGNS – This category includes signs, banners, balloons or other similar devices displayed for up to 90 days to announce a special event. Remember, **none of these options are allowed to be placed in the right-of-way** (as described in the preceding paragraph). There are three options for configuring temporary signs. Only one can be used at a time on any parcel of land. The first is the standard provisions that have been in effect for many years and the second option is a relatively new provision for an annual permit, and the third option is the newest and just went into effect on March 24, 2016.

- **Standard Temporary Signs Provisions** – mounting, location, size and number of signs are specified. They may be permitted for either 30 days or up to 60 days. Such signs must then be removed for the same time period. Permit fees are \$15 for the first 30 days and an additional \$25 to continue it for 30 more days, for a total of \$40 for 60 days.
- **Optional Temporary Sign Provisions in Lieu of Standard Provisions (Annual Banner)** – mounting, size, number and location and a restriction to advertise the business that occupies the site are specified. Multi-tenant properties do not qualify for the annual banner. The annual permit cost is \$100 for each banner and no other temporary signs may be erected on the premises during the annual permit period.
- **Wind Signs-Feather Flags** – Feather flags may be permitted for 6 months with a \$25 fee per flag, in lieu of temporary and annual banners subject to other regulations in the Sign Code – number, size, location, duration, maintenance. This type of sign is prohibited in low-density residential areas.

WINDOW SIGNS – No permit is required for temporary signs that are placed on the inside of a window of a business. The ordinance states that no more than 35 percent of the window can be covered with signs. They may not be displayed for more than 90 days unless a permit has been obtained.

UTILITY POLES – No signs may be attached to or hung from any utility pole, street light, traffic sign or tree. Such use is prohibited and signs **may be removed** without notice from these locations.

This flyer has been prepared to provide information regarding Norman’s sign regulations, and to ask that all comply with City Ordinance. Persons or businesses that repeatedly fail to comply can be billed for the cost of a City contractor hired to remove illegal signs, or can be prosecuted in Municipal Court. Convictions can result in fines of \$50 to \$750 for each day that the offense remains.

May 6, 2019