

Signs are an important element in helping a customer locate a business. They promote awareness of a business's name, products, hours and special features. But the proliferation of signs along commercial streets has occurred in many areas of Tucson, all competing with each other. Too many temporary signs can cause visual clutter. This in turn can cause confusion to a customer. Also, temporary signs and signs that move can be a dangerous distraction to drivers and can block a driver's view.

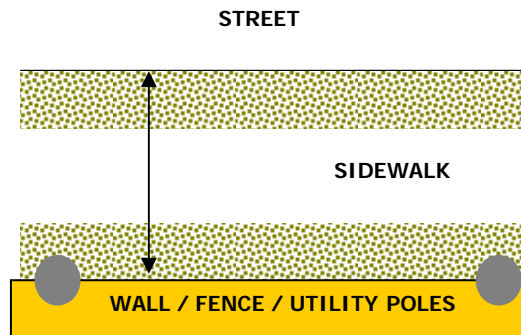
The City of Tucson code prohibits any signs to be placed on the public right-of-way. The code also is very restrictive regarding signs on private property.

Signs in the Right of Way



The public right-of-way is the land that is owned by the City of Tucson. It is illegal to place any sign on this land. Tucson is not unique. Most municipalities restrict any placement of signs on the public right-of-way. The public right-of-way is the land from the curb of a street up to and typically beyond the other side of the sidewalk up to a property line designator such as a wall, fence or utility poles. It is also all the land on the medians and boulevards between the roadways.

A typical example of the public right-of-way:



Area between the street curb and private property

The code that governs this requirement is Ch. 3 of the Tucson Code, sec. 3-79 Signs in Public areas: No sign shall be permitted which is placed on any curb, sidewalk, post, pole, hydrant, bridge, tree, or other surface located on public property or over or across any street or public thoroughfare.

The Tucson Code prohibits the placement of any sign in these areas. **The city can remove any sign placed illegally in these areas.**

To find out where on a property the right of way is located, contact the City of Tucson Engineering Survey Section. If you give them an address, they will provide you with distance from the city street to where private property begins. It could range from 5 to 80 feet or more. To contact them call:

**Engineering Survey
Section
at
791-5100**

Other examples of illegal signs in ROW



Illegal structure with banners



Illegal A-frame in the ROW



Illegal posting of sign on utility pole

Prohibited Signs

The following are signs that are prohibited on private property:

- **Animated and Intensely lighted signs**
- **Fixed Balloon signs**
Except as part of a grand opening, sales or civic events package which requires a permit.
- **Flags or Pennants**
Other than those of any nation, state or political subdivision propellers and hula strips, except pennants as part of a grand opening, sales or civic events package.
- **Miscellaneous signs, posters**
The tacking, painting, pasting, or otherwise affixing of signs or posters of a misc. character, visible from a public way, on the walls of a building, barns or sheds, or on trees, poles, posts, fences or other structures, is prohibited. No signage of any type is permitted on satellite dishes or disks. **Also, banners attached to any object other than a building i.e. poles, trees, shrubs, fences.**



- **Moving Signs**
No sign or any portion thereof shall be permitted which moves or assumes any other motion constituting a non-stationary or non-fixed condition, except for the indication of the time and temperature.

A permit is required for permanent signs and temporary signs including banners, balloons, pennants, A-frame and portable signs.

For more information regarding the sign code and how to obtain a permit, contact:

**Development Services
Department (DSD)
837- 4998**

To view the sign code, go to:
www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=11294&sid=3
Click on Chapter 3, Advertising and Outdoor Signs.

To report a violation, please call
792-CITY
(792-2489)

SIGNS IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

DO's and DON'TS

Department of Neighborhood Resources
Code Enforcement Division
320 N. Commerce Park Loop
Tucson, AZ 85726-7210
Phone: (520) 791-4605
Fax: (520) 791-2566
www.cityoftucson.org/dnr/



The Tucson Sign Code attempts to provide fair and comprehensive regulations for outdoor signs of all type that will provide businesses the opportunity to advertise plus create an aesthetic and enjoyable appearance for our residents and visitors.



A sign is an advertising message, announcement, display, illustration, or insignia erected or maintained in a location outside any building and visible to the public or attached to the interior wall of a shopping mall for identification, advertisement or promotion of an entity, product or service.

Permits Required

A sign permit is required to erect, reinstall, alter, change the copy, repair or relocate a sign.

For additional information regarding the sign code and permit requirements, visit the City's web site at www.tucsonaz.gov/dsd/

Common FAQ's

When do I need a permit for a sign?

A permit is required to erect, reinstall, alter, change the copy, repair or relocate a sign. A permit is issued to the owner or agent of the property except when a contractor is required in accordance with the State of Arizona statutes. In those cases, only a licensed contractor may obtain the permit.

How do I get a permit for a sign?

Sign permits can be obtained at the Development Services Dept., 201 N. Stone Avenue, **837-4998**.

Can I apply for a permit on-line or by telephone?

No. Sign permits can only be obtained in-person at DSD.

How many signs can I have and what size is allowed?

This is based on what your property is zoned, how many street frontages it has (corner lot) and what type of signs you wish to display. Contact Development Service Dept. for further information.

Are there any signs exempt from the requirement of a permit?

Yes. Some signs are exempt which include murals, emergency site locator signs, flags of any nation, or small incidental signs such as credit card signs, or handicap related signs. Also, owners displaying a for-sale or lease sign on their own property but this is limited to a property with a maximum of four

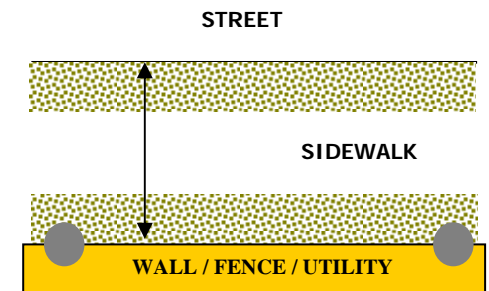
residential units or less. This does not apply to a real estate broker selling or leasing a property on behalf of an owner.

Can I put a temporary sign along the street between the sidewalk and the street, even if it's just for one day?

No. The area between the sidewalk and street is typically the public right-of-way and is land owned by the City of Tucson. No signs of any type are permitted to be placed in the public right-of-way.

What is the public right-of-way?

The public right-of-way is the land from the curb of a street up to and typically beyond the other side of the sidewalk up to a property line designator such as a wall, fence or utility poles. It is also all the land on the medians and boulevards between the roadways. A typical example is illustrated below:



Area between the street curb and private property

Can I remove signs from the public right-of-way myself?

No. Only city personnel that are assigned to remove these signs may do so. If you see a sign in the public right-of-way, please call 792-CITY (2489) to report the violation.

Is it OK to display flags or pennants on my property?

Only flags that display the emblem of a nation, state or local government are permitted. Other types of flags or pennants are permitted but only if they are approved under permit as part of a grand opening, sales event or civic event banner permit and then only for 10 days.

Can I use party balloons to attract business?

Watermelon sized helium filled balloons can be used provided the balloons are placed on your property and not on the public right-of-way; the string attached to the balloons is short enough to insure that the balloons cannot be blown out into the street or sidewalks; the balloons are plain, cannot have any letters or writing on them and the balloons are not attached to an A frame/ portable sign.

Can I put signs on a vehicle to attract business?

No. Signs, banners etc. cannot be placed on vehicles and vehicles cannot be used as a permanent sign. You can, however, apply lettering or graphics directly to an integral part of the vehicle as long as the vehicle has a current registration, is in operable condition and changes it's location every five days.

I'm a real estate broker and my firm has a "general" sign permit. Does this permit allow me to put signs in the public right-of-way including median strips?

No. The general blanket permits allow you to put signs on properties that are for-

sale but they must only be placed on that property. The benefit of the general permit is it eliminates the need to obtain a separate permit for every property you post a sign on.

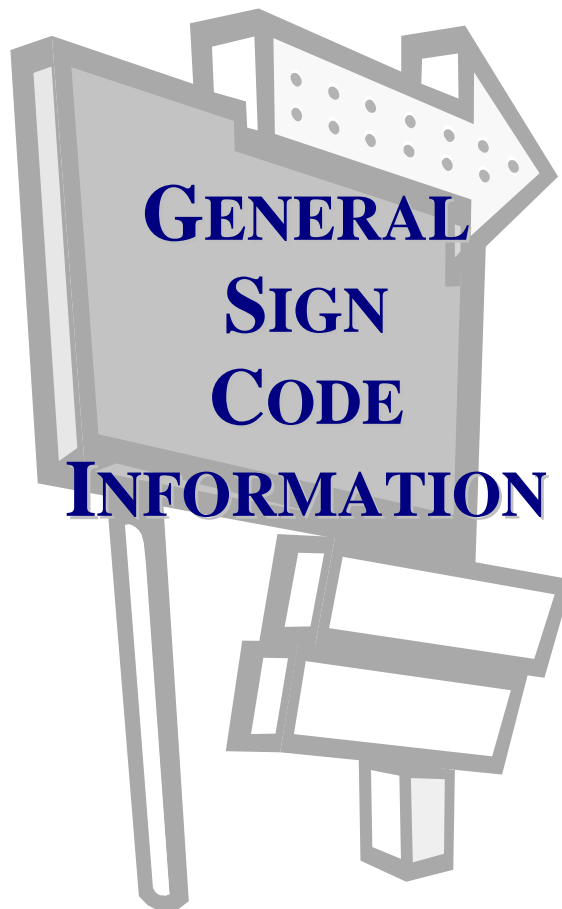


My house is currently for sale. Where can I place my "for sale" sign and directional signs?

Only on your own property or on the property of a neighbor IF they have given you permission. Only one "for sale" sign is permitted on your property.

**For more information on sign codes or how to obtain a permit, contact:
Development Services Dept.
837- 4998**

**To report a violation, please call
792-CITY
(792-2489)**



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