

Temporary Signs

Political Signs

- Signs can be up no more than 30 days prior to the election and must be removed 7 days after the election.
- Size is restricted to 16 sq feet.
- May not be placed on public property, public right of way, near stop signs, traffic signs or utility poles.
- In the event of a runoff election, signs are permitted to remain up 7 days after the runoff election.

Other Temporary Signs

- Must obtain a 30 day permit for temporary signs.
- A 30 day time period must lapse before a temporary sign can be placed again.
- Portable and temporary signs may be permitted for the announcement of temporary uses such as grand opening, fairs, revivals, sporting events & any nonprofit event or function. Such messages shall be allowed for a period not to exceed 30 days and shall be removed within 5 working days after the event.
- Grand opening signs can be allowed for 60 days with no fee.
- May not be placed on public property, public right of way, near stop signs, traffic signs or utility poles.
- Must obtain property owners permission to place any temporary sign.

Prohibited Signs

- Roof mounted signs
- Off premises signs
- Signs on utility poles
- Signs imitating traffic signals and/or emergency signals
- Vehicular signs
- Signs in the right of way
- Illegal utility sign
- Illegal right of way sign

FAQ

How do I know if I need a permit?

Permits are required for all permanent signs, temporary signs and portable signs. Political signs and real estate signs do not require permits.

What are the permit fees for signs?

There is a \$25 application fee per sign for permanent signs. There is a \$5 fee per sign for temporary signs except for nonprofits who are exempt from the temporary sign fee.

How long is the review process for signs?

Twenty-four hours if the sign is not located in the City Center Overlay or Gateway Overlay Districts. Signs located in these districts will have to go before the Board of Architectural Review for a vote.

Where may I place my sign?

Signs must be located at least 5 feet from any property line and 10 feet from any street right of way, unless stated otherwise in Overlay District.

Where can I obtain a copy of the sign regulations?

An online version can be found at www.cityofpickens.com under the City Code- Article VI Sign Regulations & Section 412 Overlay Districts.

Who enforces the sign ordinance?

The sign ordinance is enforced by the City of Pickens with the assistance of the Police Department.

How long do I have from sign approval to construct my sign?

You have 90 days from the date of the approved signed permit.

What happens if I buy a property that has an existing sign or pole sign?

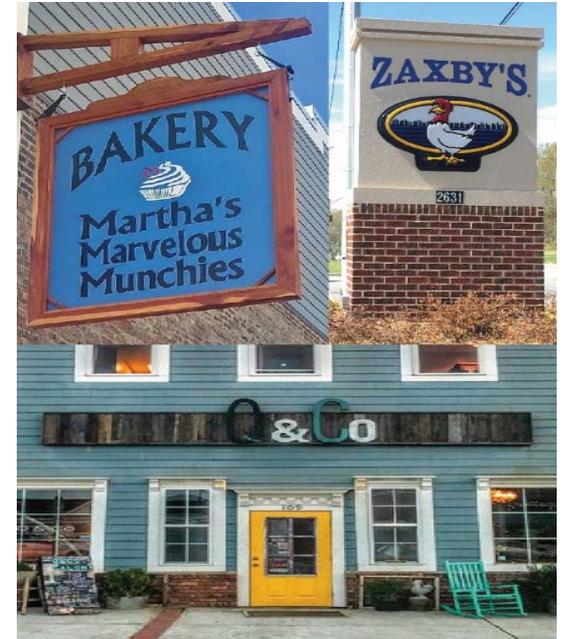
Non-conforming signs must be brought into compliance if the sign is modified, replaced or if the business ceases operation and is replaced by another business, or the sign has been abandoned for more than 3 months.



City of Pickens

Signs

Quick Reference Guide



City of Pickens
219 Pendleton Street
Pickens, SC 29671
864-878-6421

Helping to make our community look inviting to customers.

Permanent Signs

Permanent signs include freestanding signs (pole & monument style), wall signs, certain window signs, awnings and marquees. The total amount of signage allowed is based on either the linear feet of the front property line or the front building wall and varies by zoning district.

Freestanding Signs

Freestanding signs are classified as either pole or monument type signs. Only one freestanding sign is permitted per street frontage with a maximum height of 35 feet in commercial and industrial districts unless the business is located in an Overlay District.

Abandoned Signs

If a sign is obsolete or abandoned for three months, it must be removed at the owner's expense.

Pole Signs

Pole signs are **prohibited** within the city limits of Pickens. The existing pole signs are considered non-conforming and fall under the Grandfather clause.



Monument Signs

Monument signs are freestanding with a solid base and the entire area of sign is used in area calculation.



Wall & Window Signs

Wall and window signs are situated flat or nearly flat against the exterior wall.

There is no limit to the number of wall and window signs as long as it within the permitted percentage based on the square footage for the wall where the sign is placed.



Back lit Signs

Back lit signs are constructed with opaque material to allow no light to pass through the face of the sign. These are allowed in the City Center Overlay District.

City Center Overlay

All properties located within the following boundaries: Main St from Hampton Ave to Bivens St; Court St from Main St to Cedar Rock; Catherine St from Main St to Cedar Rock; Garvin St from Main St to Cedar Rock; Ann St/178 North from Main St to Baker St; Hampton Ave/Highway 8 from Main St to Lee St, Pendleton St from Main Street to West Lee St.

- Signs located in the City Center Overlay needs to be coordinated with the building façade and in proportion to the building so it does not dominate the appearance.
- Total area of signs on the exterior front surface of a building shall not exceed 20% of the front surface of the building.
- Projecting sign must project more than 12 inches from the face of the building. Face cannot exceed 25 sq. feet, 12 inches in thickness and no more than 5 feet in vertical dimension. Small projecting signs should be located near or just above the door while large projecting signs should be mounted higher and centered on the façade or positioned at the corner.
- Internally illuminated signs, signs with lights inside the sign itself, are prohibited.
- Flashing signs, signs with flashing or reflective disks are prohibited, signs with flashing lights or lights of changing degree of intensity or color or signs with electrically scrolled messages are prohibited (except government signs and signs which give time and temperature information).
- Back lit signs will be allowed in the City Center District.
- Signs not attached to buildings should be ground monument signs no more than 20 sq feet in area and 5 feet in height.
- All free standing signs must have a base of at least 25% brick, stone or a similar material.

Gateway Overlay

All properties that have frontage on Highways 183, 178, and 8 which are not located in the City Center Overlay District.

- Signs not attached to buildings must be ground monument signs no more than 36 sq feet in area and 10 feet in height.
- All free standing signs must have a base of at least 25% brick, stone or a similar material.
- All ground mounted signs shall be located a minimum of 5 feet behind the street right of way. No ground mounted sign greater than 5 sq feet in area shall be located closer than 10 feet to any adjacent lot line. A 15 foot side-yard setback shall be required if the side lot line abuts a residential district.
- The total area of signs on the exterior front surface of a building shall not exceed 20% of the front surface of the building.
- An arm sign may be substituted for a ground mounted sign but shall meet all height and area requirements as provided.
- Internally illuminated signs, signs with lights inside the sign itself, will be allowed in the Gateway Overlay. However only one light color will be allowed.
- Reader Boards with removable letters will be allowed in the Gateway Overlay and can take up no more than 50% of the entire square footage of the sign.

For General Sign Regulations, please review Section 601-609 of the City Code.

For more detailed information about both the City Center and Gateway Overlay Districts, please review Section 412.5.1 & 412.4.2 of the City Code.

Please contact City Hall for further information on awnings, marquees and window signage.