

2010 Sign Code Survey Results

	Naperville	Carol Stream	Hinsdale	Glendale Heights	Barrington*	Woodridge	Schaumburg	Elmhurst	Lombard	Geneva*	Lisle
What % of the total window area and/or an individual window pane is permitted to be covered?	50%	50%	Varies. Based on location, size and zoning district	50%	25%	5% of the surface area, not to exceed 200 sq. ft.	50%, 25% in historical district	50%	20%	Varies. Based on total allowable sign area	25%
Are pylon or pole signs permitted?	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Only as conditional use	Yes	Yes	Yes
What is the maximum height permitted for a freestanding sign (pylon or monument)	10 feet for all, 20 feet for auto dealers	25 feet	Between 5-8 feet	Pylon- 16 feet, Monument- 6 feet	13 feet	Pylon-16 feet, Monument-12 feet	Between 10 – 20 feet	20-35 feet in commercial districts	Between 6-20 feet depending on district	Between 10-20 feet in commercial districts	20 feet
Are neon signs permitted? If so, where?	Yes. No restrictions	Yes	No	No	Yes, max size is 4 sq. ft.	Yes	No, may only be used as interior signs	Yes, in interior windows signs and must meet size requirements	Yes, no restrictions	Only as interior signs	No
In what zoning districts do you permit electronic message boards or EVM signs?	All, but only as part of monument sign	Industrial and businesses districts	None	All commercial districts	Public lands, recreation-conservation	All non-residential districts	None	All commercial & industrial districts	Business Districts and Conservation Recreation	NA	Special Use only
How often is a message on an EVM sign permitted to change? Is it allowed to have continuous motion, like a TV screen?	Once every 10 seconds. No, must be static	Electronic copy cannot be changed more than once every 3 seconds	NA	Must be constant, not flashing. Changes in sign limited to no less than 5 seconds	Contiguous motion is not permitted. Minimum 10 second delay	5 seconds, no	NA	Minimum 5 seconds, no scrolling or images	2 second intervals, no continuous motion	None	NA – permitted by Special Use only
Do you allow TVs at gas pumps, in windows or in other locations? Are they considered to be signs if displayed in these locations?	Yes, Yes	NA, this has not be inquired about	Not currently	NA	No	Yes, Yes	Yes, no larger than 2 sq. ft. and exempt from sign review	No, Yes	Must be 3 feet inside window	Yes, they are currently regulated	Yes, No
Do you regulate the height, number or size of noncommercial “free speech” signs permitted in residential areas?	Yes. Height of 5 feet. No limit on number. Area is limited to 8 sq. ft. Must be on private property	Yes, regulations vary. However, area of sign not to exceed 32 sq. ft. and be no taller than 10 feet	No	No	No limit on number. No larger than 6 sq. ft. No taller than 5 feet	Area of sign not to exceed 32 sq. ft. No limit on number	Yes, no larger than 16 sq. ft. No regulations on height and number. Also cannot block any line of sight of vehicular traffic	No	Yes, total area must not exceed 32 sq. ft. Limited to 1 sign over 12 sq. ft., unlimited number for signs less than 12 sq. ft. provided total area is not exceeded	No	Yes, 3.5 sq. ft. per individual Sign shall be removed within 7 days after the election. No limit on number of signs
Are shopping centers permitted to have more than one freestanding common tenant sign? If so, is there a minimum spacing required between the signs and do you limit the number of permitted tenant panels?	Yes. If frontage more than 500 feet two monument signs allowed. Cannot be closer than 200 feet. No limit on number of signs, only sq. ft.	Permanent ground directory signs shall not exceed 72-120 sq. ft. or 25 feet in height. One pole/identification sign per street frontage.	No	1 per street frontage	No limit on number. Only 1 sign per 350 feet of frontage. Must be 250 feet apart	No	1 per shopping center	Yes every 300 feet, No	Yes if great than 10 acres must be 250 feet apart. No limit on panels	No, most shopping centers are regulated through PUD’s	Yes, 1 sign per lot, except where the lot has frontage on 2 arterial roads and the signs are at least two hundred feet (200 feet) from each other
Please describe your regulations relative to awnings (i.e how many signs are permitted on an awning and do the regulations differ based on size of the sign, the type of sign or the percentage of the awning covered by copy?)	12 sq. ft. of text/logo	Size and color limitations. No larger than 50% of the face of the awning	Not to exceed 1 sq. ft. per foot of building width, up to a maximum of 100 sq. ft. or 5% of the sq. ft. of the wall to which the sign are affixed	1 per business, 5 sq. ft., 8 feet clearance, max width of 60% of horizontal canopy projection	1 sign per awning	Included in the total allowable sign surface area	1 sign per awning, 50% coverage allowed	Awnings are considered signs. Must meet size, height regulations	No limit on number	Up to 2 signs, total of 40 sq. ft.	Must be 7 feet above ground. Maximum 1 sq. ft. for every lineal ft of store frontage
Are restaurant drive-thru menu boards exempt from regulation and, if not, how are they regulated?	No. 2 boards per drive thru lane	Menu board cannot exceed 25 sq. ft., one ground board per building not to exceed 6 feet in height	No	No, 2 permitted per business. 32 sq. ft., 16 feet height	Regulated through PUD	Yes	1 board per restaurant, no larger than 30 sq. ft.	Yes	Reviewed through conditional use	Yes	Yes
Do you exempt business identification signs of a certain size or character from regulation? (i.e. gas pump logos, ATM signs, etc.)	Yes. Directional signs <6 sq ft and non-illuminated are exempt	No	Directional or on-site signage less than 3 sq. ft. are exempt	No	Building markers and nameplates are exempt	Yes	Signs 2 sq. ft. or smaller are exempt	Yes, signs deemed to be of special architectural and/or historical significance	No	No	Yes, when carved into stone or bronze or other permanent type construction
Does changing a sign face on an existing nonconforming sign trigger conformance with your Code?	Yes, only if single tenant/business sign	No	No	No	Yes (but will be changing it to no)	No, only if sign area is changed	No	No	No	No	No
Do you have an amortization provision? If so, how many years does it give a property owner before compliance is required?	No	No	No	Yes, depends on degree of nonconformity	Yes, 5 years	No	No, all tall ground signs were amortized in the 90’s	No	Yes, 7 years	No	Yes, 7 years
Are temporary signs for special promotions allowed? If so, what type of signage is permitted and how many times per year?	4 weeks (28 days) per calendar year. Permit required, limited to 32 sq. ft.	No larger than 32 sq. ft. and no more than 4 times a year	Yes, temporary signs permitted for 60 days, max of 25 sq. ft.	Yes, cannot exceed 32 sq. ft., minimum setback of 7 feet, no more than 4 permits per business per year, 60 day total limit	Yes, number and size are regulated	Yes, number and size are regulated	Yes, temporary can only be 32 sq. ft., 15 feet tall, and up for 15 days. Businesses can have them 4 times a year	16 sq. ft. max. no more than 30 days total in any calendar year, and shall not exceed 5 feet in height above grade	Yes, 32 sq. ft. max, can be up for only 120 days	Yes, no inflatable signs. 14 day limitation	Yes, sq. ft. varies between 16 and 48. Limited to twice per year for temporary signage

* = Will be updating sign code.