

DEFINITIONS

Right-of-Way: Public property owned and maintained by the City or the State. Right-of-way lines vary depending on the property and are often displayed on property surveys (plats).

Setback: The distance between a sign and the adjacent lot line, street or right-of-way. Measurement of the setback distance shall be made from the point of the sign nearest the adjacent lot line, street or right-of-way.

Temporary Sign: A sign not permanently mounted to a building or in the ground. Signs attached by rope, string, chain, tape, paste and similar mechanisms; signs made of paper, cloth and similar materials; and signs that are pushed, hammered or similarly put in the ground are presumed to be temporary signs.

PROHIBITED SIGNS

- Any offsite sign, unless specifically allowed elsewhere in the sign ordinance.
- Snipe Sign: A sign or any material whatsoever that is attached in any way to a communications tower, utility pole, fence post, tree or a similar object located or situated on public or private property.
- Signs that are displayed on a public right-of-way.

City of Chesapeake - Department of Public Works
Post Office Box 15225 - Chesapeake, Virginia 23328

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

The City of Chesapeake City Code and Zoning Ordinance provide specific regulations on the display and use of signs. For the purpose of simplicity and brevity, this brochure provides information only on "temporary" signs and may be subject to change. For more detailed information or clarification on the City Code and Zoning Ordinance, contact the Zoning Office at 382-8454.



One City. One Number.

382-CITY
(382-2489)

Call your **Chesapeake Customer Contact Center**,
Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Go to **www.CityOfChesapeake.net** to request
services and get information anytime.



RULES FOR TEMPORARY SIGNS IN CHESAPEAKE

This brochure is to provide information on the placement of temporary signs within the City of Chesapeake.

Reference:
Chesapeake City Code
(Section 66-121.1)
Chesapeake Zoning Ordinance
(Sections 14-700 to 14-710)

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www.CityofChesapeake.net



Signs fixed to road signs, staked in the medians, planted on roadsides, tacked to utility poles and nailed to fences **are illegal**. They can pose a hazard for motorists and pedestrians by distracting drivers and creating blind spots. Illegal signs can blow free, landing in traffic, hitting a car or a passing pedestrian. Before placing a sign, refer to the Zoning Ordinance or contact the Zoning Administration at 382-8454.

Here are some answers to frequently asked questions about signs:

Do I need a permit for a sign?

It's safe to assume that a permit is required for a sign and must be acquired not less than 10 days prior to its placement. Before putting out a sign, contact the Development and Permits Department at 382-6018 to determine the need for a permit and any restrictions that may apply.

Where can a sign be placed?

All signs shall be set back from public roads and comply with other related requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. Setbacks can extend into a yard and vary, depending on where the City's right-of-way is located. No signs can be located any closer than **5 feet** from the edge of a paved road or **1 foot** behind a sidewalk, and some signs must be further back. View the Zoning Ordinance Section 14-704 for exact requirements for each type of sign. No signs shall be placed on roadway medians or between a sidewalk and the road. If the minimum setback is on private property, then approval of the property owner must be obtained.



How large can a sign be?

The size will depend on the purpose of the sign. In residential areas, signs may not exceed **2 square feet**. Check with the Department of Development and Permits for specifications on sizes.

How long can a sign stay up?

The duration that a temporary sign may be displayed (on private property only) depends on its purpose (per Zoning Ordinance 14-704(H)).

Yard sale event	90 days
Real estate signs	90 days
Business openings	30 days
Special sales events	30 days
Home site auctions	45 days
Special civic/cultural events	55 days
Special household family events	10 days

What about property other than my own?

Off-site signs are generally prohibited according to Section 14-707.13 of the Zoning Ordinance. In addition to complying with the Zoning Ordinance, one must have permission from the owner to put their sign on the private property of another.

What about political campaign signs?

Temporary signs, regardless of their content, are **not permitted** to be placed in the public right-of-way. They may be placed on adjacent private property with consent of the owner.



Can a sign be placed on a utility pole?

Signs are **not allowed** on public utility poles or traffic control devices.

What happens to illegal signs?

Signs that are not in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance are collected and disposed of by the City. **Illegal signs will not be returned.**

How do I find more information?

The Chesapeake City Code (Section 66-121.1) and Zoning Ordinance (Sections 14-700 to 14-710) provides specific regulations on the display and use of signs. Assistance is also available by calling the Zoning Administration at 382-8454. City Codes and Ordinances are available at www.CityOfChesapeake.net.

How can I report an illegal sign?

To report an illegally placed sign, call the Chesapeake Customer Contact Center at 382-CITY (2489), or place your request online at www.CityOfChesapeake.net.

Can I remove an illegal sign?

Individual citizens or groups should not remove illegal signs from the public right-of-way. Only City employees under the direction of the Director of Public Works or the Director of Development and Permits are allowed to remove illegal signs on public property. **Community members enrolled in the Sign Sweepers program who have been trained by Public Works may collect illegal signs as per their contract with the City.** Call the Public Works Information Coordinator at 382-6893 or email jabrown@cityofchesapeake.net for more information on becoming a Sign Sweeper.



How can I help control illegal signs?

Citizens can help keep illegal signs out of their neighborhoods by reporting the location to the Chesapeake Customer Contact Center at 382-CITY(2489). The City also encourages residents, businesses and civic organizations to take an active role in helping to keep our City's streets and highways attractive and litter-free. The City's Adopt-a-Highway and Adopt-a-Spot programs are available to any local community groups, businesses, or individual families who want to help maintain their neighborhoods and communities.