Prohibited Signs



WIND BLOWN SIGNS



SIGNS COVERING MORE THAN 20% OF A WINDOW



FLASHING/ ANIMATED SIGNS



SIGNS AFFIXED TO PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE



LED SIGNS



A-FRAME SIGNS

A-Frame signs remain prohibited except for official, government-sanctioned wayfinding signs at intersections, which have a special permit already issued. Even these wayfinding signs will soon be replaced with a different structure in the near future.

Proactive enforcement against prohibited

A-Frame signs will begin on October 17, 2016.

Board of Architectural Review

- □ Signs in the Old and Historic Alexandria District and the Parker-Gray District require a Board of Architectural Review Certificate of Appropriateness or an Administrative Approval, which may have additional design requirements and size limits. This review is also required for any changes made to grandfathered signs.
- A select few signs are exempt from the Board of Architectural Review approvals. These signs are:
 - One non-illuminated window sign per building that is less than 4 square feet in size; or
 - One temporary sign, no more than 6 square feet, posted for 120 days or less
- □ These signs cannot damage the building structure, including any brick.

Contact Us:

Zoning Services

703.746.4333 pczoning@alexandriava.gov

Historic Preservation/ BAR 703.746.3833 preservation@alexandriava.gov

www.alexandriava.gov/planning

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CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

Guidelines for Historic Businesses



Have the City's sign regulations changed?

Last Spring, Alexandria City Council updated signage regulations after a collaborative process working with business and neighborhood representatives. The new regulations offer greater flexibility for businesses to promote and advertise their products and services on signs. The passage of the new ordinance provides an opportunity for us to let you know about the regulations and help you understand what is and is not allowed.

As shown here, many types of signs are allowed with specific regulations on size, material and sign type depending on the size and location of the building. The information presented in the sign is not regulated. Additionally, we have provided a guide to the types of signs that are prohibited. We hope you find this information helpful.

Signs are still regulated by size and location. For businesses located in the historic districts, design and appropriateness of the sign are also factors considered for approval. Depending on the zone where your business is located and the size of your tenant space or building, you are permitted a certain allotment of sign space.

Examples of Sign Types



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This diagram is for illustrative purposes only. Contact Planning & Zoning staff for specific regulations for your business. See contact information on the back panel.

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Temporary Sign: A non-illuminated sign that is intended to be displayed for a short period of time.

Projecting Sign: A two-sided sign that is affixed to the building and supported by the wall from which it extends.

Awning Sign: A sign attached to and made as a part of an awning.

Wall Sign: A sign attached flat against a wall or painted directly on it.

Flag sign: A piece of cloth or similar material attached to a pole or rope in the shape of a pennant, rectangle or square.

Window Sign: A sign mounted on a window or visible through any window or door.

Portable Sign*: Includes most A-Frame signs and other easy-to-move outdoor signs. These have been and continue to be prohibited in the Historic Districts regardless of whether the sign is located on private or public property.

*Proactive enforcement against prohibited A-Frame signs will begin on October 17, 2016. Official government sanctioned wayfinding signs at intersections which have a special King Street A-Frame permit can remain. These signs, however will soon be replaced with a new sign type in the near future.