

Pittsburg Sign Ordinance

19.12.050 Exempt temporary signs.

The following signs do not require a sign review or historical resources permit under this title as long as the sign conforms to this section and is removed within the period of time specified. These signs are not included in the on-site allowable sign area. The owner of an exempt temporary sign must comply with PMC [19.08.050](#), [19.12.010](#) and [19.12.060](#). Some exempt temporary signs require a temporary sign permit.

A. Real Estate Signs.

1. On-Site Signs. A temporary on-site sign offering property for sale, rent or lease is permitted if:

- a. There is only one such sign per street frontage;
- b. The sign does not exceed four square feet for a single-family or duplex residential use, 64 square feet for a commercial or multifamily site of less than one acre, or 128 feet for a commercial or multifamily site of one acre or more;
- c. The sign is limited to the name of the developer, name of the real estate broker, the seller, renter, or lessor, an address and telephone number and whether the property is for sale, rent, or lease; and
- d. The sign is removed within seven days after the property is no longer for sale or lease.

2. Off-Site Signs. A temporary off-site real estate sign advertising an “open house” is permitted if the sign:

- a. Does not exceed four square feet;
- b. Is placed at a location no further from the property than the closest intersection of a major thoroughfare;
- c. Is securely installed;
- d. Is not placed in or on the street, center divider strip or traffic island, sidewalk, public sign post, traffic signal, utility pole, tree, shrub or rock;
- e. Is not placed on private property without the property owner’s consent; and
- f. Is placed only during the weekend period from noon Friday through noon Monday, during holidays, and during special showings approved by the planning director.

B. Subdivision and Mobile Home Park Signs.

1. On-Site Signs. A residential subdivision or mobile home park in the city may have two temporary on-site advertising signs, if the signs:

- a. Do not exceed 160 square feet each;
- b. Are removed within seven days after the close of an on-site sales office or the sale of the last parcel or unit space, whichever occurs first.

2. Off-Site Signs. (Temporary sign permit required). A residential subdivision or mobile home park located within the city may have no more than three temporary off-site advertising signs, if the signs:

- a. Do not exceed 160 square feet each; and
- b. Contain information pertaining only to a mobile home park, subdivision or subdivisions located within the city; and
- c. Are removed, including all support structures, within seven days after the close of an on-site sales office pertaining to the subdivision or the sale of the last parcel or unit space, whichever occurs first.

There may be no off-site subdivision signs advertising subdivisions not located within the city.

C. Construction Project Signs. One temporary sign denoting the future use, the future tenants, and/or the identity of the architect, engineer, contractor, financier or persons in similar capacities may be placed on a construction site for which a building permit has been issued or planning approval granted. The sign shall be:

1. No larger than 128 square feet for a commercial, multifamily or institutional use and no larger than three square feet for a single-family residence or duplex; and
2. Removed no later than seven days after the final inspection of the project.

D. Political Signs. A political sign intended to elicit support of, or opposition to, a party, candidate or proposition measure at an upcoming election is permitted if the sign is:

1. Not placed in such a manner that it may obstruct, confuse or interfere with traffic or endanger the health, safety or welfare of people or endanger property;
2. Not attached to a utility pole, fence abutting a public right-of-way, building (excluding the interior of windows), structure, object, tree or other vegetation, or located on or within any public right-of-way or other public property;
3. Not placed on private property without the full knowledge and consent of the lawful occupant or, if there is no lawful occupant, without the full knowledge and consent of the property owner;

4. Erected no earlier than 88 days prior to and removed not later than seven days after the election to which the sign relates. If not timely removed, the sign will be deemed to be abandoned and may be removed by the city without notice;

5. No campaign sign may exceed 32 square feet in area per face. A campaign sign may be double-faced, if it is placed perpendicular to the right-of-way. In residential areas, no campaign sign may exceed six square feet in total area per face and may be double-faced if placed perpendicular to the right-of-way;

6. No freestanding campaign sign may exceed four feet in height (to bottom of sign); and

7. Campaign signs may not be internally illuminated.

An on-site identification sign of the campaign headquarters for a candidate for political office or the proponent or opponent of a proposition measure shall conform to the size and placement provisions for office uses in PMC [19.16.050](#).

E. Community Event Signs. (Temporary sign permit required.) Signs and banners for noncommercial promotional events of civic, charitable, educational, religious or service organizations are permitted if the signs are removed within seven days after the completion of the event. A community event sign may be placed on or over public property only with the issuance of a temporary sign permit from the city manager.

F. Promotional Signs, Balloons and Banners. (Temporary sign permit required.) Temporary on-site signs and banners may be placed on the exterior of a building and temporary cold or hot air balloons or other advertising devices may be placed at a site for a special event such as a business opening, sale or other business promotion if the owner first obtains a temporary sign permit from the city planner. The permit may impose conditions on the size, placement, color and copy in order to ensure the safety and welfare of the general public. Any one commercial establishment may obtain a temporary sign permit under this subsection no more than three times in a calendar year.

The maximum period of time for which a promotional sign is permitted is:

1. For a sale or business promotion, five days;

2. For a business opening, 15 days after the first day of the opening or 21 days after installation, whichever occurs first.

G. Temporary Window Signs. Temporary on-site window signs may be placed or painted on a ground floor window to advertise a special sale or event if:

1. The total window area taken up by permanent and temporary signs does not exceed 35 percent of the window area on the building frontage;

2. The face of the sign indicates the date it was placed; and

3. No sign remains for more than 30 days. [Ord. 16-1401 § 3 (Exh. A), 2016; Ord. 05-1257 § 4, 2005; Ord. 958 § 2, 1988; Ord. 928 § 1, 1987.]

19.12.060 Prohibited signs.

No person may place or maintain:

A. A sign contrary to this title;

B. A sign which violates a condition of its permit;

C. A paper, cloth or other temporary commercial or advertising sign placed on a wall, fence or structure unless the sign is permitted under PMC [19.12.040](#) or [19.12.050](#);

D. A pennant, flag, banner, balloon or similar advertising device, when used for commercial advertising purposes, whether or not any written message or symbol is affixed, except as permitted under PMC [19.12.040](#) or [19.12.050](#);

E. A sign painted on a building wall, fascia, parapet, metal or other rigid awning or canopy, fence or structure. This provision does not include awning signs. Murals, drawings or other graphic embellishments not containing any commercial message or identification information are not considered signs under this provision;

F. A portable sign, including an A-board or mobile sign unless the sign is permitted under PMC [19.12.040](#) or [19.12.050](#);

G. A sign placed on a utility pole or structure, shrub, tree or rock;

H. A statue or three dimensional object when used for advertising purposes;

I. A moving sign or a sign that rotates, flashes or oscillates, except for a traditional symbolic sign such as a barber shop pole, or a variable billboard permitted under PMC [19.12.025](#);

J. An exposed neon sign, except one placed on the inside of a window or which is permitted within the historic district or design review area under Chapter 19.20 PMC;

K. A projecting or shingle sign, except one which is permitted within the historic district or design review area under Chapter 19.20 PMC;

L. A roof sign except for a promotional sign permitted under PMC [19.12.050](#)(F);

M. A sign supported by exposed wires, braces or cables;

N. A commercial sign at a residential property, except for a real estate sign or construction project sign permitted under PMC [19.12.050](#)(A) or (C);

O. A sign placed on public property or in the public right-of-way except with the permission of the agency which owns the property;

P. A sign which contains obscene matter or wording;

Q. A sign which interferes with the vision or safe and convenient movement of vehicles or pedestrians;

R. An off-site sign excepting one specifically permitted under PMC [19.12.025](#), [19.12.040](#) or [19.12.050](#);

S. A sign or sign structure which is unsafe, dilapidated or in disrepair, abandoned or obsolete. [Ord. 15-1388 § 3, 2015; Ord. 928 § 1, 1987.]

For more information about general regulations about Pittsburg Municipal Code Sign ordinance go to <http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Pittsburg/?Pittsburg19/Pittsburg1912.html>