

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE WORCESTER
ZONING ORDINANCE, ADOPTED APRIL 2, 1991,
RELATIVE TO SIGNS

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Worcester as follows:

1. Article IV, of the Worcester Zoning Ordinance, adopted April 2, 1991, be and is hereby amended by deleting the existing Section-6(E)(4) in its entirety and inserting the following new Section-6(E)(4) as follows:

4. Temporary Signs

a) Placement and Operational Regulations for all Temporary Signs:

- i) Temporary signs shall not contain digital display nor shall they be internally illuminated. Temporary motion signs are not allowed, except that a temporary freestanding sign may have an element of motion, or be internally illuminated in nonresidential zoning districts, provided a sign permit has been obtained, the sign meets the applicable setback requirements set forth in **Table 4.3.2A and 4.3.2B**, and provided the sign is turned off at the close of business, if applicable.
- ii) For the purposes of this **Section-6**, temporary banner signs, except for banner signs as described in **Section-6(C)**, that contain permanent brackets and are displayed lengthwise, shall be considered temporary wall signs.
- iii) Temporary signs shall be displayed in conjunction with seasonal and brief activities.

b) Temporary Noncommercial Signs are permitted in accordance with **Table 4.3.2A**, below. The Notes to **Table 4.3.2A** modify the permitted temporary signs as shown on **Table 4.3.2A** and have the same force for regulating the temporary signs in each zoning district that **Table 4.3.2A** has

c) Temporary Accessory Commercial Signs are permitted in accordance with **Table 4.3.2B**, below. The Notes to **Table 4.3.2B** modify the permitted temporary signs as shown on **Table 4.3.2B** and have the same force for regulating the temporary signs in each zoning district that **Table 4.3.2B** has.

d) Other Temporary Signs

- i) Temporary Signs on Canopies. For businesses with canopies, including but not limited to automobile refueling stations, the supporting structure of the canopy may contain a maximum of two (2) wall signs totaling no more than 24 square feet of temporary signage located on the canopy post(s). If temporary signage is placed on the canopy structure, temporary wall signs shall not be placed on the walls of the property's other building(s).

Table 4.3.2A - Temporary Signs with Noncommercial Speech

Zoning District RS, RL, RG Single, two, three family; single-family attached (townhouse) and single family semi-detached (duplex) dwellings		Temporary Signs Attached to a Building			Temporary Freestanding Signs			
	Sign Type → Requirements↓	Roof	Window	Wall / Banner See Note 1	Freestanding anchored in ground	Portable	Sidewalk	Freestanding with motion See Note 2
	Allowed?	N	Y			N		
	Maximum Number	N/A	Any number.			N/A		
	Maximum Area (SF)		50% of window area (including glass doors) for combined temporary and permanent signs. See Note 6.	128 SF for all temporary wall and freestanding noncommercial signs on a lot. See Note 7.				
	Maximum Setback		N/A		Shall not extend over the sidewalk or street.			
Maximum Height	N/A		Shall not extend over the roofline.	6 ft.				

Zoning District RS, RL, RG Multi-family dwellings, nonresidential uses, General uses per Table 4.1	Table 4.3.2A Continued	Temporary Signs Attached to a Building			Temporary Freestanding Signs			
	Sign Type → Requirements↓	Roof	Window	Wall / Banner See Note 1	Freestanding anchored in ground	Portable See Note 4	Sidewalk See Note 5	Freestanding with motion See Note 2
	Allowed?	N	Y				N	
	Maximum Number	N/A	Any number.			One		N/A
	Maximum Area (SF)		50% of window area (including glass doors) for combined temporary and permanent signs. See Note 6.	128 SF or 4% of the building face whichever is greater for all temporary noncommercial wall signs. See Note 7.	128 SF for all temporary freestanding noncommercial signs. See Note 7.	12 SF		
	Minimum Setback		N/A		Shall not extend over the sidewalk or street.	5 ft.	Minimum four (4) ft. of clearance on sidewalk	
Maximum Height	N/A		Shall not extend over the roofline.	6 ft.		4 ft.		

Zoning District BO, BL, BG, ML, MG, A, IN, IP	Table 4.3.2A Continued	Temporary Signs Attached to a Building			Temporary Freestanding Signs			
	Sign Type → Requirements↓	Roof See Note 3	Window	Wall/ Banner See Note 1	Freestanding anchored in ground	Portable See Note 4	Sidewalk See Note 5	Freestanding with motion See Note 2
	Allowed?	N for BO Y for BL, BG ML, MG, IN, IP, A	Y					
	Maximum Number	One per lot.	Any number.					
	Maximum Area (SF)	Equal to the permitted permanent roof sign area.	50% of window area (including glass doors) for combined temporary and permanent signs. See Note 6.	128 SF or 4% of the building face whichever is greater for all temporary wall/banner, noncommercial signs. See Note 7.	128 SF for all temporary, freestanding noncommercial signs per building unit length. See Note 7.		12 SF	64 SF for all temporary, freestanding noncommercial signs per building unit length.
	Minimum Setback	N/A			Shall not extend over the sidewalk or street	5 ft.	Minimum four (4) ft. of clearance on sidewalk	Front yard setback for the district or ten (10) ft whichever is greater.
	Maximum Height	Equal to permitted permanent roof sign height.	N/A	Shall not extend over the roofline.	6 ft.		4 ft.	6 ft.
	Other	Limited to no more than 90 days of display within a 365 day period. Required to obtain a permit from Inspectional Services. No lot shall contain both a permanent & temporary roof sign.	Shall be located on the inside of the window.	N/A			Sidewalk signs shall be permitted only during operating hours of the establishment.	Motion signs shall be permitted to have motion only during operating hours of the establishment.

Notes to Table 4.3.2A

Note 1. – A temporary banner sign, except a banner sign described in Section 6-(C) that contains permanent brackets and is displayed lengthwise, shall be considered a temporary wall sign.

Note 2. – A temporary freestanding motion sign is a temporary freestanding sign that contains an element of movement such as spinning, rotating, flapping, etc.

Note 3. – Temporary roof signs are prohibited in the Union Station and Downtown/Blackstone Canal Sign Overlay Districts.

Note 4. - In all zoning districts, uses that are permitted to have a portable sign are limited to one portable sign per lot. Portable signs may include manual changeable copy but shall not contain electronic, flashing, moving parts or digital display. Portable signs shall not consist of non-rigid signs taped or attached by other means to the portable sign structure. The text copy and symbols shall be an integral part of the portable sign.

Note 5. – Temporary sidewalk signs are permitted for all uses in all districts as set forth in the table above with the exception of buildings whose primary and sole use is a single, two- or three family dwelling, single-family semi-detached dwelling, or single-family attached dwelling.

Note 6. -The combined area of temporary and permanent window signs on each building floor and along each primary and secondary building length shall not exceed 50% of the available window area per building floor and per building length. This provision shall not be construed to limit sign area to 50% of each individual window panel.

Note 7. - In all zoning districts, the permitted allowances for temporary noncommercial freestanding and wall signs are in addition to the permitted allowances for temporary signs set forth in **Table 4.3.2B**, below.

Table 4.3.2B - Temporary Accessory Signs with Commercial Speech

Sign Type → Requirements↓	Temporary Signs Attached to a Building			Temporary Freestanding Signs				
	Roof	Wall / Banner See Note 1	Window	Freestanding anchored in ground	Portable See Notes 5 & 6	Sidewalk See Note 6	Freestanding with motion – See Note 2	
Allowed?	N	Y					N	
Maximum Number	N/A	One (1) per lot.	Any number. See area requirement.	Maximum one (1) freestanding sign per lot.			N/A	
Maximum Area (SF)		24 SF for general, non-residential, specially permitted, multi-family uses or 2% of building face whichever is greater. See Note 3.	50% of window area (including glass doors) for combined temporary and permanent signs. See Note 7	12 SF				
		Six (6) SF for all other uses in residential zoning districts						
Maximum Setback		N/A		Shall not extend over the sidewalk or street	5 ft.	Minimum four (4) ft. of clearance on sidewalk		
Maximum Height		Cannot extend over roofline	N/A	6 ft.	6 ft.	4 ft.		
Other		N/A						Sidewalk signs shall be permitted only during operating hours of the establishment.

Zoning District
RS, RL, RG

Zoning District
BO, BL, BG, ML, MG, A, IN, IP

Table 4.3.2B (continued)	Temporary Signs Attached to a Building			Temporary Freestanding Signs			
Sign Type → Requirements↓	Roof	Wall / Banner – See Note 1	Window	Freestanding anchored in ground	Portable See Notes 5 & 6	Sidewalk See Notes 5 & 6	Freestanding with motion – See Note 2
Allowed?	N for BO Y for BL:, BG ML, MG. See Note 4	Y					
Maximum Number	One(1) per lot	Two (2) per building unit length.	Any number. See area requirement.	Maximum one (1) freestanding sign per each side of a lot visible from a different public street. See Note 5.			
Maximum Area (SF)	Equal to the permitted permanent roof sign area.	Forty (40) SF total or 2% of building face whichever is greater.	Maximum 50% of window area (including glass doors) may be covered by temporary & permanent signs See Note 7.	24 SF		12 SF	24 SF
Minimum Setback	N/A			Shall not extend over the sidewalk or street	5 ft.	Minimum four (4) ft. of clearance on sidewalk	Front yard setback for the district or ten (10) ft. whichever is greater.
Maximum Height	Equal to permitted permanent roof sign height.	Cannot extend over roofline		6 ft.		4 ft.	6 ft.
Other	Limited to no more than 90 days of display within a 365 day period. Required to obtain a permit from Inspectional Services. No lot shall contain both a permanent & temporary roof sign.	N/A	Shall be located on the inside of the window.	N/A	Motion signs shall be permitted to have motion only during operating hours of the establishment. Sidewalk signs shall be permitted only during operating hours of the establishment.		

Notes to Table 4.3.2B

Note 1. A temporary banner sign, except a banner sign described in **Section-6(C)** that contains permanent brackets and is displayed lengthwise, shall be considered a temporary wall sign.

Note 2. A temporary freestanding motion sign is a temporary freestanding sign that contains an element of movement such as spinning, rotating, flapping, etc.

Note 3. Includes privileged nonconforming uses that have obtained a Special Permit.

Note 4. Temporary roof signs are prohibited in the Union Station, Blackstone River Parkway, and Downtown/Blackstone Canal Sign Overlay Districts.

Note 5. In all zoning districts, all uses that are permitted to have a portable sign are limited to one portable sign per lot. In no case shall lots contain both a freestanding sign and a portable sign. Portable signs may include manual changeable copy but shall not contain electronic, flashing, moving parts or digital display. Portable signs shall not consist of non-rigid signs taped or attached by other means to the portable sign structure. The text copy and symbols shall be an integral part of the portable sign.

Note 6. Temporary portable and sidewalk signs are permitted for all uses in all districts as set forth in the table above with the exception of buildings whose primary and sole use is a single, two- or three-family dwelling, single family semi-detached dwelling or single family attached dwelling. Said uses are permitted one freestanding temporary sign anchored in the ground. Buildings that contain permitted general uses, and multi-family dwelling uses or nonresidential uses in addition to residential uses (mixed use building) are excluded from the exception above.

Note 7 The combined area of temporary and permanent window signs on each of the building floor and along each primary and secondary building length shall not exceed 50% of the available window area per story and per building length. This provision shall not be construed to limit sign area to 50% of each individual window panel.

**In City Council May 22, 2012
Passed to be Ordained by a yea and nay vote of Ten Yeas and One Nays.**

**A Copy. Attest: David J. Rushford
David J. Rushford
City Clerk**