

Sign Violations

Gwinnett County has adopted a sign ordinance (regulations) to help protect neighborhood character, safety, and property values. Signage is part of a community's visual identity and can have an impact on perceptions of the community.

- Poorly maintained signage is unattractive, and sign competition between businesses creates visual clutter and litter. They make the surrounding area less appealing to residents and potential customers, which tends to reduce property values.
- Animated and LED signs (blinking, flashing, rotating, etc.) can draw drivers' attention away from the road.
- Signs that block the view of the road cause a safety hazard to drivers and pedestrians.
- Window signs can block or obstruct the view into or out of a business, creating a public safety risk.

Plan of Action:

- Remove prohibited sign(s) from your property.
- Ensure signage is not within the public right-of-way.
- Ensure that window signage does not cover / block more than 20% of the window area.
- Contact Gwinnett County Planning & Development to ensure all existing wall, ground, or temporary signage has been properly reviewed, approved, and granted a permit.
- Gwinnett County's Sign Ordinance:
https://library.municode.com/ga/gwinnett_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH78SI
- Sign questions? Contact Gwinnett County Code Enforcement.

What does the sign ordinance say about prohibited signs [SO Section 78-107 (1-22)]:

Types of prohibited signs include roof signs, streamers, portable, trailer, sidewalk, sandwich, curb, or A-frame signs, multi-faced signs, LED and animated signs (motion, flashing, blinking, rotating, varying light intensity). Also, signs that contain obscenities, simulate or hide a traffic control device, emit noise, interfere with road visibility, obstruct the flow of traffic, or access to fire escapes are not allowed. Signs that do not conform to building & electrical codes or that fail to display a permit number when required are prohibited. Overlay districts prohibit temporary signs. And signs which are structurally unsound, dilapidated, or neglected, or abandoned commercial signs are prohibited.

Although a sign may be allowed, it cannot be placed within any public right-of-way or nailed, fastened, or affixed to any tree, rock, post, curb, utility pole, natural feature, street sign or marker, traffic control sign or other structure and cannot be placed on property without the owner's permission. Window signs cannot exceed 20% of the window area per tenant elevation (space).

What does the sign ordinance say about temporary signs [SO Section 78-108]:

A temporary sign permit allows the following for 21 consecutive days every 3 month:

- 1) **Air or gas-filled device:** Commercial zone: maximum 20 feet tall, 150 square feet; Residential zone: maximum 4 feet tall, 16 square feet;
- 2) **Banner:** maximum 16 square feet in area; must be individually attached to a pole, mast, or arm; only one per public street frontage and maintained in good condition;
- 3) **Search light** and similar devices.

Other signage and flags may be allowed as generally permitted, refer to Section 78-109.

Learn more at
GwinnettCodeEnforcement.com
or 770.513.5020

