

# Commercial Signs

## Bardstown Sign Standards — Information Sheet #1

### Freestanding & Building Signage (excluding Historic District Signage)

Standards for the type, number, size, height, appearance, location, and lighting of all freestanding and building signage are set forth in Bardstown's Sign Ordinance. New and replacement signs are allowed with the issuance of a sign permit from the Planning Commission.

### Historic District Signage

Permanent signs are allowed in the Historic District with approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Bardstown Historical Review Board and City Council and issuance of a sign permit from the Planning Commission. Special event signs are allowed in conformance with the above-listed criteria. Portable signs, such as A-frame signs and menu and sandwich boards, are allowed with approval by the Historical Review Board and in compliance with the following: (1) may not exceed 36 inches in width and/or depth; (2) must be located immediately adjacent to the business façade so as not to obstruct the sidewalk; (3) must be within the outer boundaries of the business location so as not to obstruct or encroach upon the sidewalk of an adjoining business or owner; (4) must offer for sale only those products or services offered at the location, and (5) must be removed at the close of business each day.

### Special Event Signage

A special event signage is a temporary banner or wind sign less than 40 square feet in size and/or small balloons. Special event signage is allowed for 2 non-consecutive periods of 7 consecutive calendar days per calendar year and with the issuance of a special event sign permit from the Planning Commission.

### Temporary Signage

Temporary signs, excluding permitted special event signage, are not allowed. Temporary signs are signs used for a limited period of time and that are not permanently mounted. Examples include, but are not limited to gas pump toppers affixed to the top or sides, sandwich boards or other moveable signs, advertising circulars or posters, etc.

### Window Signage

Window signs that are permanently painted or otherwise permanently affixed to a window are considered wall-mounted signs and must have an approved sign permit. Other window signs, including but not limited to advertising circulars or self-adhesive or static letters or posters, must be placed on the inside surface of storefront windows.

### Visual Elements

Visual elements intended to attract attention to a business or activity or to convey a message concerning a business or activity and are substitutes for additional signs are not allowed. The following visual elements are prohibited in all circumstances whether added to a sign or simply displayed on the property on which the business is located or on any other property: pennants; streamers; large or small balloons; flashing lights, arrows, or other pulsating fixtures or items; large displays, inflatable or of permanent construction, fixed or portable, and larger than 3 feet in height and/or width; or wording, message, or commercial depiction on building exterior or structural element thereof. Vehicle signs may be allowed but must be permanently painted and the vehicle must retain its mobility and must be moved frequently. Flags with commercial messages that are flown and displayed to attract attention and/or to advertise a product or use are not permitted, with the exception that one corporation flag per parcel may be flown in conjunction with the United States or Kentucky flags on a pole no more than 25 feet in height.

### Discontinued Businesses or Uses

In the event a business or use ceases operation and there is no evidence of a new business operating on the premises for a period of thirty (30) days, all sign faces of existing conforming signage shall be removed or the message painted over in such a manner to completely cover up the message. If a use ceases operation for more than thirty (30) days and the signage is non-conforming, the sign must be removed immediately.

All special event, permanent, & replacement signs require permits.

No sign shall be placed in the right-of-way without written permission from the appropriate agency.

For more information on the Bardstown Sign Ordinance, please contact:

Joint City-County Planning Commission

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