

PLANNING, COMMUNITY, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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Noncommercial Temporary Signs Information

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Note: This document contains guidance regarding noncommercial temporary signs only. For the complete rules governing noncommercial temporary signs, please see [AMC 19.67.110 Temporary Sign Standards](#). For other sign types, including permanent signs and commercial temporary signs, please see [AMC 19.67 Signs](#).

What is a noncommercial temporary sign?

Noncommercial temporary signs express noncommercial speech such as: public community events, religious, political, social, or other philosophical messages. Noncommercial signs do not promote commercial products or services.

Noncommercial temporary signs are permitted for a limited period and are not to be permanently attached to the ground or a structure. All temporary signs are subject to the placement, size, height, quantity, and duration requirements set forth in Anacortes Municipal Code [\(AMC\) 19.67.110](#).

Is a permit required?

A permit is not required for the placement of noncommercial temporary signs; however, please review the standards to make sure your sign(s) meet the requirements. Prohibited signs and signs that do not meet the applicable standards are subject to removal by the City at the owner's expense.

What are the rules?






The regulations for noncommercial temporary signs recognize free speech rights by regulating signs in a content-neutral manner. Regulations are based on a sign's physical appearance along with other non-content-based attributes (i.e., sign location, size, etc.).

Temporary signs must **not**:

- Obstruct any door, Fire Dept. sprinkler connection, or street number sign
- Be placed on the roof of a building OR affixed to a permanent sign or its structure, tree, utility pole, or street sign
- Overhang a paved roadway, bicycle path, parking space, driveway, loading area, or wheelchair access
- Be permanently attached to the ground, a building, or to any other structure, other than what is necessary to secure the sign to prevent theft, wind damage, or safety problems
- Be placed in any public park, trail, open space, or other public space

The following table provides information for each of the different types of temporary signs. Each section will indicate the zones where the sign type is allowed, as well as the specifics for quantity, size, duration of posting, and physical placement standards. You can find the zoning for your property by navigating to the [City of Anacortes Interactive Map](#). Zones are grouped into categories (Mixed-Use, Industrial, etc.) in [AMC 19.40.020](#).

Noncommercial Temporary Sign Types and Standards

	Zone(s)	Placement*	Quantity	Sign Size	Duration
Type 1 Signs Examples: 	Any Zone	Private property or public right-of-way	1 per dwelling or business (Except no limit in the 60 days before any election scheduled by Skagit County (AMC 19.67.110.H.1.b.ii))	Private Property: 12 sq. ft. 8' tall Public ROW: 4 sq. ft. 3' tall	180 days per calendar year
Type 2 Signs Examples: 	Mixed Use & Industrial Zones	Private property	1 per property	18 sq. ft. 8' tall	180 days per calendar year
Type 3 Signs Examples: 	Any zone when: Property has a minimum of 100' of lot frontage and does not contain a permanent freestanding sign with digital or changeable copy	Private property	1 per property	24 sq. ft. 8' tall	180 days per calendar year
Type 4 Signs Examples: 	Mixed use, Industrial, and Overlay zones	Private property or public right-of-way**	2 signs per lot for each single noncommercial purpose	Private property 12 sq. ft. 8' tall Public ROW: A-board signs: 6 sq. ft.; 4' tall Non-A-board signs: 4 sq. ft.; 3' tall	30 minutes prior to the daily opening and ending 30 minutes following the daily closing
Type 5 Signs Examples: 	Mixed use or Industrial zones	Private property	1 sign per site/property See AMC 19.67.110.H.5 for exception.	13' tall	180 days per calendar year

For complete rules see [AMC 19.67.110 Temporary Sign Standards](#).

* Sign placement requires property owner permission, or when placement in right-of-way is allowed, adjacent property owner permission. Signs must NOT be placed within center medians, traffic circles, traffic islands, and roundabouts.

** Signs must maintain at least 25' of separation from other Type 4 signs. Signs placed on a pathway or sidewalk must be placed to one side to provide a minimum of 4' of unobstructed sidewalk or pathway width and must not be placed on sidewalks or pathways less than 4' in width.