

**BINGHAM TOWNSHIP SIGN STANDARDS
EXCERPT FROM THE BINGHAM TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE
NOVEMBER 2018**

Note: References that apply to Campaign Signs are highlighted in Yellow

SECTION 3.13 SIGNS

(Annotation: Section amended in its entirety by Amendment 18-004, effective November 2, 2018)

SECTION 3.13.1 PURPOSE

The purpose is to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communicating and informing while minimizing the impact on the landscape. Regulation of signs will lessen the impact on the aesthetic environment, while allowing for the promotion of economic development.

SECTION 3.13.2 DEFINITIONS

BANNER: A sign made of non-rigid material; however, not including pennants or flags.

FIXED SIGN: A sign structurally affixed to the ground or to some other portion of a structure, but not a wall sign.

FLAG: A sign made of non-rigid material having a distinctive size, color and design used as a symbol or emblem.

INCIDENTAL SIGN: A sign that is less than two (2) square feet in area.

PENNANT: A small, often triangular, banner used in multiples as a device to call attention to a land use or activity.

PORTABLE SIGN: A sign placed on the ground which is portable and not anchored or secured.

SHARED SIGN: A sign attributed to a group of contiguous commercial or industrial entities located within the complex or group.

SIGN: Any device, structure, fixture, banner, placard or other object used for the display of any message that is afforded public visibility from outdoors.

TEMPORARY SIGN: A sign, banner or advertising display, with or without a structural frame, intended for a limited period of display, including displays for holidays or public events.

WALL SIGN: A sign painted on, or attached directly to and parallel to an exterior wall.

WINDOW SIGN: A sign affixed to, in contact with, or within twelve (12) inches of a window installed for purposes of viewing from outside the premises. This does not include merchandise located in a window.

UNALTERED GRADE: Grade or topography existing prior to any excavation, clearing, grading, or filling.

SECTION 3.13.3 PROHIBITED SIGNS

- A. Any sign not specifically permitted by this Article.
- B. A sign that contains any moving or animated parts or has the appearance of having any moving or animated parts when such sign is visible from any public right of way or from any private driveway or vehicular easement. No sign shall employ any flashing, moving, oscillating, blinking, or variable intensity light.
- C. Pennant flags, streamers, searchlights, over-the-street banners, or other similar material or devices.
- D. A temporary or movable sign and air blown device not specifically permitted herein.
- E. Any regulated sign placed or painted upon trees or rocks or natural features.
- F. A sign placed on any light pole, utility pole, or other support.
- G. A sign erected in any place where, by reason of its position, shape, color, or other characteristic, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device.
- H. A sign erected, located, or maintained that prevents free ingress or egress from any door, window, or fire escape or that is attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
- I. A sign erected at the intersection of any street in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision of motorists.
- J. A sign on a motor vehicle if the motor vehicle is parked in a position visible to traffic on a public road or parking area for the primary purpose of displaying the sign to the public.

SECTION 3.13.4 SIGNS NOT REQUIRING A PERMIT

The following signs are authorized in any district without a sign permit and are not included towards the maximum number of signs allowed on a parcel, but shall conform to the applicable requirements of this chapter and the applicable building codes.

- A. Incidental signs.
- B. Temporary signs as allowed in Section 3.13.5 Signage Allowed Per District. Temporary signs shall be removed within ten (10) days after the final date of the event.**
- C. Signs erected by, or on behalf of a governmental body for purposes of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare.
- D. Official signs erected by public utilities.
- E. Flags or insignia.
- F. Any sign not visible to motorists or pedestrians on any road, water body, public lands, or adjacent parcel(s).
- G. Signs painted on or integral to vending machines, fuel dispensing pumps or fuel storage tanks, as long as they are not readable from off the site.

H. Legal postings required by law.

I. Window signs not permanently affixed to the interior of a building.

J. Public signs or signs sanctioned by a public body on public land are not subject to this chapter.

SECTION 3.13.5 SIGNS ALLOWED PER DISTRICT

The following charts show the quantity and types of signs allowed per parcel:

A. Agricultural and Rural Residential Districts

Agricultural and Rural Residential Districts	Permit Required	Illumination	Maximum Height	Max Number of Signs	Maximum Sign Area
Temporary Sign	No	No	5 feet above unaltered grade	2	3 square feet per sign
Fixed Sign, Wall Sign or combination of the two	Yes	Yes, See Sect. 3.14	8 feet above unaltered grade	N/A	16 square feet per parcel
Portable Sign	No	No	4 feet	1	8 square feet

B. Residential District

<u>Residential District</u>	Permit Required	Illumination	Maximum Height	Max Number of Signs	Maximum Sign Area Per Sign
Temporary Sign	No	No	5 feet above unaltered grade	2	3 square feet
Fixed Sign	No	No	5 feet above unaltered grade	1	2 square feet
Wall Sign	No	No	Below eave line	1	2 square feet

C. Commercial and Industrial Districts

Commercial and Industrial Districts	Permitted Required	Illumination	Maximum Height	Max Number of Signs	Maximum Sign Area Per Sign
Temporary Sign	No	No	5 feet above unaltered grade	2	8 square feet
Fixed Sign	Yes	Yes, See Sect. 3.14	12 feet above unaltered grade	1 (a)	24 square feet
Wall Sign	Yes	Yes, See Sect. 3.14	Below eave line	1 (a)	24 square feet
Shared Sign	Yes	Yes, See Sect. 3.14	12 feet above unaltered grade	1	24 square feet
Portable Sign	No	No	4 feet	1	8 square feet

(a) In the case of a shopping/business center or other integrated group of stores or commercial buildings, one (1) sign or wall sign may be erected per unit or street frontage. In addition, one (1) shared sign is allowed.

SECTION 3.13.6 PORTABLE SIGN REGULATIONS

Such signs are not to be counted in the maximum allowable sign area on the parcel. Portable signs must comply with the following standards:

- A. One portable sign may be displayed per business.
- B. Maximum size of eight (8) square feet with a maximum height of four (4) feet.
- C. Can only be displayed during hours of operation.
- D. Cannot be permanently affixed to the property.
- E. May not be illuminated.
- F. Shall not obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

SECTION 3.13.7 WALL SIGN REGULATIONS

Such signs are to be counted in the maximum allowable sign area on the parcel unless they are not visible to motorists or pedestrians on any public road, water body, public lands, or adjacent parcel(s). Wall signs must comply with the following standards:

- A. One wall sign may be displayed per building.
- B. Maximum size of twenty-four (24) square feet.
- C. The height of the sign may not be above the eave line of the wall it is affixed to.

SECTION 3.13.8 REGULATIONS THAT APPLY TO ALL SIGNS

A. Area of sign shall be based upon the following:

1. Structural elements necessary for the support of the signs shall not be included in the square footage computation so long as they are separate from the sign face by a reveal or a change in materials.
2. Square footage calculation shall include such elements as decorative borders, frames, top caps, and drop signs.
3. For a sign painted or applied to a building, wall or window shall be considered to be that of the smallest rectangle or other geometric shape which encompasses all of the letters, symbols, borders, and designs.
4. When a sign has two (2) or more faces, the area of all faces shall be included in determining the area except where two faces are placed back to back and are at no point more than two (2) feet from each other.

B. No signs shall be allowed in the road right-of-way without written permission from the local, county, or state road agency.

C. No sign shall be erected or maintained in such a manner as to obstruct vision or interfere with traffic visibility on a curve, at an ingress or egress, or within thirty (30) feet of the intersection of two (2) roads.

D. For the safety of the general public, no spinners, pennants, or inflatable signs may be used in conjunction with any sign or business.

E. For the safety of the general public, no unshielded lights, or lights directed upward or horizontally at sign faces, flashing lights, scrolling or moving electronic lights, or other distractive devices may be used in conjunction with any sign or business.

F. If allowed in the district, signs may be illuminated by a shielded light shining downward onto the sign in accordance with Section 3.14 Outdoor Lighting Standards. The source of the light shall be baffled so it is not visible to vehicles or pedestrians on any road, alley, water body, public lands, adjacent parcels, or in the air above the illumination.

G. All signs shall be installed only with the prior approval of the property owner.

H. All signs and sign structures shall be maintained in good, safe, structural condition and repair. All signs and display surfaces shall be neat in appearance and neatly painted or posted, and not ripped, tattered or faded. Premises immediately surrounding signs shall be kept clean and free of rubbish, weeds and debris.

I. Once the purpose of the sign has ended, the sign shall be removed within thirty (30) calendar days. Anything formerly used to solely support or provide a structure for a sign and not in use for any other purpose shall be removed.

SECTION 3.13.9 NONCONFORMING SIGNS

- A. Subject to the remaining restrictions of this Section, nonconforming signs that were otherwise lawful on the effective date of this chapter may be continued, repaired and maintained as is necessary to keep in a sound condition.
- B. The nonconformity of a sign and/or its structure may not be increased. Illumination may not be added to a nonconforming sign.
- C. A nonconforming sign and/or its structure may not be moved except to bring the sign into greater conformity with this chapter.
- D. If a nonconforming sign is destroyed to the extent it is impractical to be restored using a majority of its existing major components, it may not thereafter be repaired, reconstructed or replaced except in conformity with all the provisions of this chapter, and the remnants of the former sign structure shall be cleared from the land.
- E. The message of a nonconforming sign may be changed so long as this does not create any new non-conformity.