

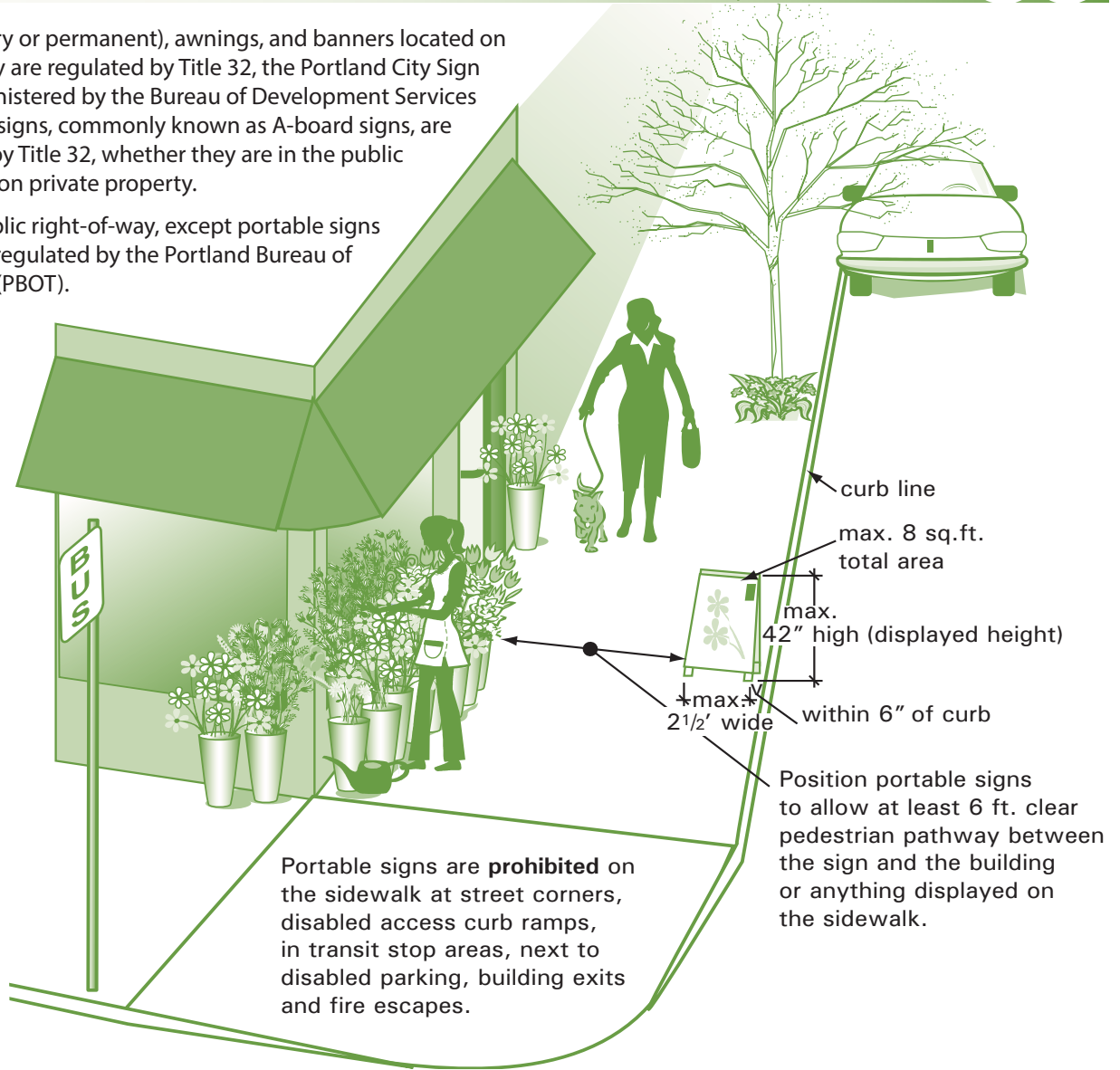


# Signs: Portable and Temporary



Signs (temporary or permanent), awnings, and banners located on private property are regulated by Title 32, the Portland City Sign Code and administered by the Bureau of Development Services (BDS). Portable signs, commonly known as A-board signs, are also regulated by Title 32, whether they are in the public right-of-way or on private property.

Signs in the public right-of-way, except portable signs (A-boards), are regulated by the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT).



Type of Sign	Definition
Portable	Movable sign that is not attached to a structure or the ground, includes: A-boards, portable reader-boards and similar signs.
Temporary portable	Movable sign with specific limited display times, typically used for real estate open houses, garage sales and other temporary events, but may not be used regularly in same location.
Banner	A sign made of fabric or other similar non-rigid material supported or anchored at four corners or along top with weighted bottom. A larger banner will require additional support and anchor points.
Balloon	Examples include giant inflatable balloons, hot air or flying balloons, fly guys/air dancers and balloon sculpture/arches.
Flag	A sign made of fabric or other similar non-rigid material supported or anchored along one edge or two corners. If any side is more than three times as long as any other side the flag becomes a banner.
Temporary fascia/free-standing	Registration through BDS when displayed for more than one year

Portable signs can only be placed on the right-of-way adjacent to the property where the sign is registered or on the private property where the sign is registered. They cannot be placed across the street or a neighboring property.

\* For information about permanent signs (other than portable permanent signs) and awnings, please visit the BDS Web site at [www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds), select the Permits tab then Signs and Other Permits.

	Portable	Banner and Balloon	Temporary Fascia and Freestanding
<b>Size</b>	In public rights-of-way, signs may not exceed a total 8 sq. ft. in area, with a maximum of 4 ft. (42 inches displayed height) tall and maximum of 2.5 ft. (30 inches) wide.	<b>ZONE</b>	Lawn signs: up to 3 sq. ft. of sign is allowed on a single support.
	On private property the sign may be as large as 12 sq. ft.	<b>Temporary</b>	Temporary fascia/wall and freestanding signs: may be no larger than 32 sq. ft. in area.
<b>Number</b>	Limited to the number of public entrances per building or buildings on the site. Multiple doors at one entrance count as a single entrance. If there are multiple tenants in a building, which share the same public entrance, only one sign can be registered. Tenants and property owner should coordinate the registration and display of a portable sign.	<b>Permanent</b>	Temporary freestanding signs: may have two faces of 32 sq. ft. in area, provided the two faces are within 90 degrees of each other.
	For sites without buildings, such as surface parking lots, each vehicle entrance counts as one entrance, limited to four portable signs. One sign for businesses with service windows, but no public entrance.	Up to three small banners, under 32 sq. ft. each, may be displayed per site without a registration, if you place only one per exterior wall or structure. Permanent banners are treated as permanent signs and must follow code for permanent signs. Only one balloon sign per site is allowed and must be registered.	
<b>Location, Zoning and Mounting</b>	Permanent portable signs are allowed and registered only in: RX (Central Residential), C (Commercial), E (Employment), or I (Industrial) zones, all other zones prohibited.	Banners must be securely mounted on a structure.	Lawn: allowed in all zones, but must be placed on private property only
	In the public right-of-way (streets and sidewalks), these signs must be within 6 inches of curb and must allow a clear pedestrian path no less than 6 ft. wide. Portable signs are prohibited at street corners, transit stop areas, disabled access curb ramps, disabled parking spaces, at building exits or fire escapes, any portion of the street (medians, traffic islands, and parking areas), pedestrian pathways, bicycle paths, and sidewalks less than 8 ft. wide. Portable signs can only be placed on the right-of-way adjacent to the property where the sign is registered or on the private property where the sign is registered. They cannot be placed across the street or a neighboring property.	Balloon signs restricted to RX (Central Residential), C (Commercial), E (Employment), or I (Industrial) and may be located on a building rooftop.	Temporary fascia / freestanding: restricted to RX (Central Residential), C (Commercial), E (Employment), or I (Industrial). Temporary fascia: attached parallel to and not to extend from the façade, must not be attached to fire escapes, and not to exceed 6 inches above roof line.
<b>Display Period</b>	Temporary portable signs: (real estate open house, garage sale and other temporary events) may be displayed only between 6:00 pm Friday and 8:00 pm Sunday and from 6:00 am to 1:00 pm on Tuesday. May not be used at the same location regularly and must remain temporary. The sign may be up to 4 sq. feet in area and no greater than 24 inches tall.	Banners are limited to 180 calendar days per year. Balloon signs are limited to a maximum of one week per calendar year.	Temporary fascia / freestanding signs: up to two consecutive 180-day periods without a permit or registration. A longer display period requires registration.
<b>Prohibitions</b>	Signs must remain portable and cannot be attached to the ground, pavement, street trees, light or utility poles, sign poles, parking meters, street furniture, etc.	<b>Banner</b> display on roofs, trees or other landscaping is prohibited. <b>Banners</b> are prohibited on single family houses and duplexes. More than 4 temporary <b>banners</b> on one site is prohibited.	Lawn: prohibited in the public right-of-way which includes the street area, sidewalks and the planting strip. No lights, other electrical components or changing image features. Temporary: may not extend into the right-of-way or on the roof.
	Not allowed in the right-of-way in the Hillsdale Plan District. No lights, other electrical components or changing image features. Not to exceed 12 sq. ft. in area when on private property and 8 sq. feet when in right-of-way. Sign cannot exceed 42 inches in displayed height.		
<b>Registration</b>	Each portable sign requires a separate registration, the registration options are listed on the registration form, these include: a one year, two year, or four year registration, or paying a one time fee.	Banners: larger than 32 sq. ft. or three fourth banner on a site must be registered. Balloon signs must be registered.	<b>Lawn:</b> no registration <b>Temporary Fascia/Freestanding:</b> may be displayed for two consecutive 180 day periods without permit or registration. A longer display period requires registration and is limited to additional 360 days.
Registration forms and permit applications are available online at <a href="http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds">www.portlandoregon.gov/bds</a> and in the Development Services Center (DSC) at 1900 SW 4th Avenue.			
<b>Inspections</b>	Inspections are random or complaint based.	Inspections are random or complaint based.	Inspections are random or complaint based.
	Citations may be issued for improper placement, unregistered signs or improperly registered signs. Citations include a fine for the first infraction, if the same sign is cited three times, BDS will impound the sign and revoke the registration and/or prohibit future registration.	Citations may be issued for improper placement, unregistered signs or improperly registered signs.	Citations may be issued for improper placement, unregistered signs or improperly registered signs.
<b>Exemptions</b>	Interior displays and inside windows are exempt.	Interior displays and inside windows are exempt.	Lawn: exempt from registration with BDS.
	Portable signs: exempt from Design Review.	Banners: in rights-of-way are regulated by PBOT. Flags: exempt regardless of size or content.	

# Helpful Information

Bureau of Development Services  
 City of Portland, Oregon  
 1900 SW 4th Avenue, Portland, OR 97201  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

## General Office Hours:

Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm  
 BDS main number: 503-823-7300

## Permit Information is available at the following location:

Development Services Center (First Floor)  
 Permitting Services (Second Floor)

For Hours Call 503-823-7310 or visit  
[www.PortlandOregon.gov/bds/37988](http://www.PortlandOregon.gov/bds/37988)

Portable Signs.....	503-823-2633
Signs, except portable.....	503-823-7379
BDS main line.....	503-823-7300
DSC automated information line .....	503-823-7310
Zoning information .....	503-823-7526
Permit information .....	503-823-7363
Transportation (PBOT)	
Banners in rights-of-way.....	503-823-5179
Sidewalk issues.....	503-823-3467
City of Portland TTY .....	503-823-6868

The information in this publication is an overview of portable and temporary sign regulations. Please contact BDS staff to get more detailed information. Sign fee information, permit applications and registration forms are available online and in the Development Services Center (DSC).

A clear pedestrian pathway is required between a portable/a-board sign and any other object or display on the sidewalk, as in the case of a sidewalk cafe.



Banners must be securely mounted on a structure.



Residential real estate signs and home business signs are the most common lawn signs



Examples of a properly displayed temporary lawn sign and a temporary freestanding sign

For more detailed information regarding the bureau's hours of operation and available services;

Visit our Web site  
[www.portlandoregon.gov/bds](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bds)

Information on sign permits is located on the BDS website under the Permits tab, scroll down to Signs & Other Permits, select Sign & Awning Permits.

Note: All information in this brochure is subject to change.