



# Signs

Graham regulates signs and requires a **Sign Permit** for all signs, unless they are specifically exempted. “Signs” that are not visible from the public right-of-way are not regulated.

## Regulations

Regulations for signs will depend on the **zoning district** of your property and the type of sign you want. There are also different regulations for properties in **overlay districts**.

Graham’s ordinance regulates five types of signs: (1) freestanding; (2) projecting; (3) wall; (4) marquee or awning; and (5) outdoor advertising. The back of this sheet provides a summary of the regulations for each of these types of signs in each zoning district.

### General Limitations

All signs shall be maintained in a state of good repair

No sign shall be located in any right-of-way

No sign shall be erected on the roof of any building

No sign shall have more than 2 display surfaces

Signs that change must remain static for at least 20 seconds

Banners, streamers, pennants, windblown propellers, strung light bulbs and similar devices are prohibited

Mobile or portable signs are prohibited with some exceptions

## Sign Permit

A Sign Permit application can be obtained on the City’s webpage or at City Hall. Each sign permit application must include sufficient information to demonstrate that the regulations will be met. This should include a drawing of the sign showing its dimensions. For a freestanding sign, it should show the message of the sign and a plot plan showing the sign’s location. For a wall sign, it should show an elevation of the building façade with its dimensions and indicating where the sign will be placed. If there are other wall signs on that façade, the size of those signs should be indicated.

### ***Do I need a permit to replace the face of an existing sign?***

Yes. Some signs are nonconforming, meaning they no longer meet the requirements of the ordinance. Replacing the face of these existing signs might not be permitted.

### ***Do signs in a window need a permit?***

Yes. Only posters and paper signs do not need a permit.

### ***Do I need a permit for a temporary sign?***

There are different types of temporary signs that do not need a permit provided that they meet certain size, duration and other restrictions. These include temporary political yard signs, real estate signs, garage sale signs, business grand opening signs, business event signs, and construction site identification signs.

See the **Development Ordinance** for complete sign regulations.

Graham City Hall, 201 S Main St

[www.cityofgraham.com](http://www.cityofgraham.com)

All regulations for Signs are in the  
*City of Graham Development Ordinance*

For questions, contact the City Planner at (336) 570-6705 or  
[npage@cityofgraham.com](mailto:npage@cityofgraham.com)

### Freestanding Signs

- In highway overlay districts, only monument signs are permitted.
- Shall be located so that they do not obstruct the vision of motorists and are not in or over a public right-of-way.
- Shall be limited to two signs where the lot has at least 100ft of street frontage, provided the signs are at least 50ft apart.
- Not permitted on same street frontage with projecting sign.
- Message is limited to the name(s) of establishment(s) on the lot. Theaters and service stations may also identify the current presentations or fuel prices.

### Projecting Signs

- Building façade must be at least 20ft wide.
- Limited to one per street frontage and no closer than 50ft to any other projecting sign.
- Not permitted on same street frontage with freestanding sign.
- Shall clear walkways by at least 10ft, project no further than 5ft from building and not extend beyond the curb.
- Message is limited to the name(s) of establishment(s) on the lot.

### Wall Signs

- Shall not protrude more than 12in from wall.
- Shall not extend above the soffit, parapet or eave line.
- No limit on number of signs as long as total does not exceed maximum percentage of façade coverage.

### Marquee or Awning Signs

- Shall not be illuminated.
- Shall clear walkways by at least 9ft.
- Shall conform in size and appearance to existing signs under the same marquee or awning, if there are any.

### Outdoor Advertising Signs

- Located no closer than 100ft to a lot zoned residential.
- Located no closer than 1000ft to another outdoor advertising sign on the same side of the road.
- Not permitted within a 500ft radius of the intersecting centerline of an interstate interchange.

Zoning District	Freestanding		Projecting	Wall		Marquee or Awning		Outdoor Advertising	
	Max. Display Surface (SqFt) <sup>1</sup>	Max. Height (Ft) <sup>1</sup>	Max. Display Surface (SqFt)	Max. % Facade Coverage	Max. Display Surface (SqFt) <sup>2</sup>	Max. Height (In)	Max. Length (Ft)	Max. Display Surface (SqFt)	Max. Height (Ft) <sup>5</sup>
O-1	48	10	8	5	<i>Not permitted</i>	10	3	Not permitted	—
B-1	25	14	8	5	2	10	3	Not permitted	—
B-2	64	20	30	10	2	10	3	700 <sup>3</sup>	40
B-3	48	16	20	10	2	10	3	Not permitted	—
I-1 & I-2	64	20	20	5	30	10	3	700 <sup>4</sup>	40
Hwy OD	40	5	Not permitted	10%	<i>Same as zone</i>	Same as zone		Same as zone	

1. When adjacent to an interstate highway, as described in Section 10.399 (1)(c), the maximum area per display surface is 300 sqft and the maximum height is 50 ft.  
 2. For wall signs located on the side of the building when adjacent to a lot zoned residential. 3. Only permitted when adjacent to an interstate highway (Section 10.399 (1)(c)).  
 4. When not adjacent to an interstate highway, the maximum area per display surface is 300 sqft. 5. Measured from ground level or I-85 road level, whichever is higher.