

Chapter 730 SIGNS

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730.01 Purpose. The purpose of this Chapter is to provide a safe, consistent, equitable and legal system for signage. The regulations of factors such as size and location will encourage the communication of information and orientation for both visitors and citizens; provide for the effective identification and advertisement of business establishments; eliminate visual blight; and provide standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare.

730.02 Applicability. The following regulations shall apply to any sign erected, moved, or altered after adoption of this Ordinance. Official traffic control signs and instruments of the state, County, municipality, or political subdivision of the state, are exempt from all provisions of this Ordinance.

730.03 Process Type. New signs are subject to a Type I review when not concurrent with another application. Signs that are submitted in conjunction with another application can be processed as a consolidated review.

730.04 Compliance with State Regulations

- A. All signs shall be in compliance with Oregon Administrative Rules and Oregon Revised Statutes, including the provisions of ORS 377, as applicable.
- B. No sign permitted by ORS 377 shall be erected within 100 feet of a residential dwelling without written consent of the owner.

730.05 Exempt Signs. The following signs shall be allowed without a sign permit and shall not be included in the determination of the type, number, or area of permanent signs allowed within a zone, provided such signs comply with the regulations in this Section, if any.

- A. Government/Regulatory signs erected or required by the City of Baker City, Baker County, the State of Oregon, or any other government agency including traffic, utility, safety, railroad crossing and identification signs for public facilities.
- B. Signs legally posted within the right-of-way.

C. Legal notices.

D. Temporary signs that do not require a building permit, have a sign area of 24ft² or less and are displayed for a period of 4 months or less in a 12-month period, excepting temporary electronic reader-board signs. Temporary electronic reader-board signs that do not exceed a sign area of 65ft² and are displayed for a period of seven (7) days or less within a six (6) month period, per parcel. All temporary signs shall be removed within the applicable timeframe set forth by this chapter.

E. Address signs, with or without illumination.

730.06 Prohibited Signs. The following signs are unlawful and prohibited in any zone:

A. Based on Location.

1. Signs erected without the permission of the property owner, with the exception of those authorized or required by local, state, or federal government.
2. No sign shall be placed in such a position as to endanger pedestrians, bicyclists, or traffic on a street by obscuring the view or by interfering with official street signs or signals by virtue of position or color.
3. No sign or portion thereof shall extend beyond any property line of the premises on which such sign is located, unless specifically allowed.
4. No sign shall be placed nor extend into the public right-of-way, unless specifically allowed by the governing jurisdiction.
5. No sign shall be permitted that interferes with any surface or underground utility or communication lines and equipment.

B. Based on Safety.

1. Interactive signs or mechanical movement signs, including revolving signs.
2. Signs that because of color, wording, design, size, shape, or illumination resemble, obstruct, or conflict with any traffic-control device or with the safe and efficient flow of traffic, or private signs which appear to control or direct traffic, parking, or public use or access inconsistent with city regulations.
3. Signs which prevent free ingress or egress from any door, window, fire escape, or that prevent free access from one part of a roof to any other part. No sign other than a safety sign shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
4. Unsafe signs, as determined by the Building Official.

C. Based on Visual Character.

1. Animated or flashing signs, signs which contain beacon or strobe lights, reflective or mirror signs, or signs which flash text or graphics.

2. Signs which emit smoke, visible vapors, particulate matter, sound, odor or contain open flames.

730.07 General Regulations

- A. No sign shall be placed as to interfere with visibility or effectiveness of any official traffic sign or signal, or with driver vision at any access point or intersection.
- B. No sign shall cause glare, distraction, or other driving hazards within a street or road right-of-way.
- C. No sign shall be moving, revolving or flashing and shall not be located so as to detract from a motorists' vision except for emergency purposes.
- D. Light from a sign shall be directed away from a residential use or zone.

Table 720-1 - Sign Requirements by Zone	
ZONE	SIZE
Residential Zones <i>(RR-2 & RR-5)</i>	1. Signs shall not exceed a total of 32 square feet of display surface, per side
Resource Zones <i>(EFU, TG, ME & SM)</i>	2. Signs shall not exceed a total of 48 square feet of display surface, per side
Commercial & Industrial Zones <i>(RSA, RC, RI, TG, GC, CI & I)</i>	3. Signs shall not exceed a total of 48 square feet of display surface, per side

730.08 Maintenance. Any signage that has been damaged to such an extent that they may post a hazard to passersby shall be repaired or removed immediately.

730.09 Non-Conforming Signs

- A. Any non-conforming sign in existence at the date of adoption of this Ordinance is permitted to remain and any non-conforming sign that is damaged or destroyed may be replaced or restored to its original design, so long as the cost of the repair is less than 60 percent of the replacement or restoration cost.
- B. No sign shall be altered or enlarged in such a way that increases its non-conformity.

730.10 Enforcement. Any person who erects or otherwise displays a sign for which a sign permit or approval is required under this Ordinance without first obtaining a permit has committed an infraction and is subject to the provisions of Chapter 140 - *Enforcement*.