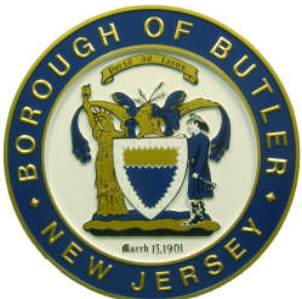


**Signs**

# Sign Ordinance

**Chapter 143-174 & 175**  
**General Code of the Borough of Butler**



**Borough of Butler**

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**\$2.00**

**ARTICLE XXI  
SIGNS**

**§143-174. GENERAL SIGN PROVISIONS**

- A. No sign shall be constructed or displayed without first obtaining a permit from the Zoning Officer, unless specifically exempted.
- B. If there is any question as to the suitability of any sign or it's meeting the requirements of this chapter, either the Construction Code Official or Zoning Officer may refer said sign application to the Planning Board Site Plan Committee. The Site Plan Committee shall submit a report of its findings to the Construction Code Official or Zoning Officer, as the case may be, no later than one week after the receipt of the sign application by the Site Plan Committee Chairman or designee.
- C. Signs shall not be accepted or exempted from the limitations of any other section of this ordinance unless specifically stated. If there is a conflict, this Article shall prevail.
- D. The following shall be exempted only from the requirement for a sign permit. This shall not be construed as relieving the owner of the sign from the other requirements of this Article, nor its erection and maintenance in good and safe conditions.
  - 1. Memorial tablets or signs, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other noncombustible materials.
  - 2. Traffic or other municipal signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, danger signs, and such temporary emergency signs as may be erected by governmental or public utility employees in carrying out their work.
  - 3. Names on mailboxes.
  - 4. Occupant names on private residences; either, dwellings or property providing that the sign does not exceed seventy-two (72) square inches.
  - 5. Street number(s) on buildings providing that the sign does not exceed seventy-two (72) square inches.
  - 6. Signs used on property warning the public against hunting, trapping and/or trespassing thereon.
  - 7. Signs attached to the inside of a window.
  - 8. Seasonal decorations on private residences.
  - 9. Sale or Rental signs on residences, but not to be placed on any tree and not to exceed four (4) square feet.

- E. No sign, including billboards as defined in this chapter shall exceed two hundred fifty (250) square feet. For free standing signs, this shall apply to each side.
- F. Overhanging signs are prohibited.
- G. Banners or banner type signs, streamers, pennants and similar displays are prohibited.
- H. Signs shall be either freestanding, or attached to buildings or structures, in an approved manner. All freestanding signs shall be permanently anchored by footings.
- I. Any sign that uses the word "stop" or "danger" or otherwise presents or implies the need for requirement of stopping or caution or the existence of danger or which is likely to be confused with any sign displayed by public authority is prohibited. Exception: Items B, C, and D of section, §143-175.
- J. No sign shall be placed as to interfere with or be mistaken for a traffic control, or similar safety device. Exception: Items B, C, and D of section, §143-175.
- K. No sign shall be placed as to interfere with traffic visibility.
- L. No sign shall be permitted which, in the opinion of the Traffic Safety Officer or designee, is considered a distraction or hazard to vehicular traffic.
- M. No sign shall be placed on, erected on, or attached to the roof or rooftop of any building or structure. Exception: Signs may be attached to a Mansard roof or Mansard roof type building facade; but may not project above the highest elevation of the Mansard roof or Mansard roof type building facade.
- N. No sign shall extend or project above the highest elevation of the wall to which it is attached.
- O. All illuminated signs shall be either, indirectly lighted or of the diffused lighting type.
- P. All lights used for the illumination of any use, or building or the areas surrounding them; or for the illumination or display of merchandise or products of business establishments; shall be shielded from the direct view of vehicular traffic using the road or roads abutting such properties. Exception: Neon signs may be directly viewed by vehicular traffic.
- Q. All floodlights, or floodlight type of illumination, used for the illumination of said premises, or of any sign thereon, whether or not such floodlights are attached to or separate from the building, shall not project light above the highest elevation of the illuminated area of the building.
- R. Signs attached to the exterior of windows are prohibited.

- S. No sign shall be attached to trees, fence posts, stumps, utility poles, bridges, culverts or other signs. Exception: Signs used on property warning the public against hunting, trapping and/or trespassing thereon.
- T. Customary warning or No Trespassing signs may be displayed in any zone. Not more than four (4) signs shall be allowed and said signs, each, shall not exceed one (1) square foot in area. Signs used on property warning the public against hunting, trapping and/or trespassing thereon shall comply with State Laws.
- U. A freestanding sign shall have a vertical clearance between the average ground level beneath the sign and the bottom edge of said sign of eight (8) feet or greater or the top of the sign shall not extend more than three (3') feet above the average ground elevation.
- V. No freestanding sign shall exceed a height of twenty five (25) feet above the average ground level beneath the sign.
- W. No advertising sign shall be erected or located on, within or over a public right-of-way.
- X. No sign or advertising structure shall be erected which directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered elsewhere than on the premises. Exception: Billboards.
- Y. Not more than four (4) signs advertising the sale and price of seasonal farm produce shall be allowed. Said signs shall not exceed a total of twenty four (24) square feet in combined area.
- Z. Uses on corner lots have frontage on both streets and signs shall be permitted accordingly.
- AA. Billboards shall adhere to this Article.

#### **§143-175. PERMITTED SIGNS**

The following signs are permitted for uses as specified:

- A. Signs, as part of an awning, canopy or marquee are permitted within the CBD and HC zones and shall be included when calculating the total sign area.
- B. Temporary safety, traffic, directional and warning signs, approved by the governing body shall be permitted in all zones.
- C. Traffic directional, traffic control and traffic safety signs containing such wording as "one-way", "do not enter", "no outlet", "stop", "enter" and "exit" may be located on any property, in any zone, provided the locations and sizes are approved by the Planning Board or designee.

- D. A temporary sign advertising the prospective sale or rental of the premises upon which it is located, not exceeding four (4) square feet in area and provided that it shall be maintained and removed within seven (7) days after consummation of a lease or sale transaction is permitted in any zone.
- F. Non-illuminated, temporary signs on new construction sites, not exceeding seventy five (75) square feet in total area and provided they shall be maintained and removed within seven (7) days after completion of the construction work, are permitted in any zone.
- G. **Churches, places of worship:** One (1) freestanding sign not exceeding twelve (12) square feet in area and ten (10) feet in height and set back at least twenty-five (25) feet from all street rights-of-way and lot lines, plus one (1) attached sign not exceeding twenty-five (25) square feet in area.
- H. **Health-care facilities:** One (1) freestanding sign not exceeding twelve (12) square feet in area and ten (10) feet in height and set back at least twenty-five (25) feet from all street rights-of-way and lot lines, plus one (1) attached sign not exceeding fifty (50) square feet in area.
- I. **Public libraries, buildings used exclusively by Federal, State, County and local government for public purposes, public, private and parochial schools, public recreational and community center buildings and grounds:** There shall be permitted one (1) wall or freestanding ground identification sign not exceeding twenty five (25) square feet located on the premises. No such sign shall be located closer than 25 feet to a property line or street right-of-way line.
- J. **Residential Uses:**
- (1) A name plate sign, situated within the property lines and bearing only the name and address of the principal occupant providing that the sign does not exceed seventy two (72) square inches in total area.
  - (2) One (1) sale or rent sign erected only on the property to be sold or rented, and shall not exceed four (4) square feet in area.
  - (3) Not more than two (2) temporary or ground signs for, and located within, any subdivision which has been approved by the Planning Board, provided that such sign does not exceed twenty four (24) square feet in area. In no case shall any such sign be located closer than twenty (20) feet to any street or side lot line. Any such sign shall be moved within thirty (30) days after eighty percent (80%) of the lots in the subdivision have been either sold or residence built thereon.
  - (4) Approved multi-family housing developments may have one (1) sign along each arterial or collector road which the tract in question abuts, provided that there exists at least one hundred (150) feet of unbroken frontage. Such sign(s) shall not exceed forty (40) square feet in area and ten (10) feet in height. In addition, each sign shall be set back from all street rights-of-way and lot lines a minimum of thirty (30) feet and shall display only the development's name.

- K. **Central Business District uses:** Each use may have one (1) lighted or unlighted sign displaying the name of the use, attached flat against the front of the building or an integral part of an awning or canopy which is attached to the front of the building not exceeding an area equivalent to five percent (5%) of the front of the building or fifty (50) square feet, whichever is smaller. Where the building(s) is designed for rear or side entrances, one (1) unlighted sign may be attached flat against the building at the rear and side entrances, each sign not to exceed an area equivalent to half that of the sign on the front of the building. Signs may be displayed in the front windows of the first floor portion of the building.
- L. **Retail sale of goods and services (other than CBD)**
- (1) The following specific uses, retail sale of goods and services, restaurants, bars, taverns, banks, theaters, bowling alleys, automobile sales and car washes in the HC Highway Commercial District shall comply with the following sign requirements.
    - (a) For grouped uses (shopping centers), on a single property: One (1) freestanding sign advertising the center and the tenants shall be permitted not exceeding a total of one hundred, fifty (150) square feet. No sign shall exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height at its uppermost edge.
    - (b) For one (1) use on a single property: One (1) freestanding sign shall be permitted not exceeding seventy-five (75) square feet in area. No sign shall exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height at its uppermost edge.
  - (2) In addition, each use may have one (1) attached flat or an integral part of an awning or awning canopy, attached to the front of the sign not exceeding an area equivalent to five percent (5%) of the building front or fifty (50) square feet, whichever is smaller. Where the buildings are designed for rear or side entrances, one (1) unlighted sign may be attached flat against the building at the rear and side entrances, each sign not to exceed an area equivalent to one half (1/2) that of the sign on the front of the building.
- M. **Office buildings and motels:** One (1) sign used only to display the name of the office complex or motel and not exceeding an area equivalent to five percent (5%) of the first floor portion of the front facade or one hundred (100) square feet, whichever is smaller. Such sign may be either freestanding or attached, and, if freestanding, shall be set back at least twenty-five (25) feet from all street rights-of-way and lot lines. Where an individual office unit has direct access from the outside, a sign not exceeding six (6) square feet, identifying the name of the office, may also be attached to the building at the office entrance. No sign shall exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height at its uppermost edge.

- N. **Service stations:** One (1) freestanding sign and one (1) attached sign are permitted. The freestanding sign shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet in area and shall be setback at least ten (10) feet from all street right-of-way and lot lines and shall be subject to the limitations of any sight triangle pursuant to Section 143-73R. The attached sign shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet in area. In addition, the following special signs shall be permitted:
- (1) Directional signs of lettering over individual entrance doors or bays, consisting only of the words "washing," "lubrication," "repairs," "mechanic on duty" or other words closely similar in import, provided that there shall be not more than one (1) such sign over each entrance or bay, the letters thereof not exceeding twelve (12) inches in height, and the total area of each sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet.
  - (2) Customary lettering on, or other insignia which are a structural part of, a gasoline pump, consisting only of the brand name of gasoline sold, lead-warning sign, a price indicator and any other sign required by law, and not exceeding a total of three (3) square feet on each pump, and, if illuminated, such signs shall be non-flashing and shall not in any manner constitute a traffic hazard with respect to adjacent streets or intersections.
  - (3) A non-illuminated credit card sign not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area, which may be placed on or near the gasoline pump.
- O. Laboratories, industrial and manufacturing plants, wholesale distribution centers and warehouses: One (1) sign not larger than the equivalent of five percent (5%) of the area of the front wall of the building or one hundred (100) square feet, whichever is smaller. If attached, the sign shall be attached flat against the building and shall not be higher than the roof line; if freestanding, the sign shall not exceed ten (10) feet in height shall be set back from all street rights-of-way and lot lines at least fifty (50) feet.