

6.02.00. - Exempted signs.

The following signs are exempted from the provisions of these regulations (except for the requirements of 6.03) and may be erected or constructed without a permit, but in accordance with the structural and safety requirements of the Florida Building Code:

1. Official traffic signs or sign structures, when erected or required to be erected by a government agency, and temporary signs indicating danger.
2. Changing of the copy on a bulletin board, poster board, display encasement or marquee.
3. Temporary, nonilluminated signs as permitted by the district regulations, advertising real estate for sale or lease or announcing contemplated improvements of real estate, and located on the premises.
4. Temporary, nonilluminated signs as permitted by the district regulations, erected in connection with new construction work and displayed on the premises during such time as the actual construction work is in progress.
5. Signs on a truck, bus or other vehicle, while in use in the normal course of a business.
6. Temporary paper signs, as permitted by the district regulations, except garage sale signs as permitted under section 18-347 of the City Code. Garage sale signs are allowed only as related to the sale of household items and incidental to the sale of items accumulated by the home owner or occupants and are not to be conducted as a commercial enterprise.
7. Temporary political signs that conform with the district sign regulations.
8. Nonilluminated signs, not exceeding 15 square feet in area, with letters not exceeding six inches in height, painted, stamped, perforated or stitched on the surface area of an awning, canopy, roller curtain or umbrella if permitted by district regulations.

6.03.00. - Prohibited signs and sign characteristics.

The following signs and sign characteristics are prohibited in the City of Sweetwater:

1. No sign shall be constructed, erected, used, operated or maintained which:
 - a. Displays flashing, rippling, or intermittent lights or lights which are alternatively bright and dim.
 - b. Uses the word "stop" or "danger," or presents or implies the need or requirement for stopping or the existence of a danger, or which is a copy or imitation of an official sign.
 - c. Is so located and so illuminated as to provide a background of colored lights blending with traffic signal lights to the extent of confusing a motorist when viewed from a normal approaching position of a vehicle.
 - d. Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure or any sign designed to be portable. Portable signs shall include, but not be limited to, signs designed to be transported by means of wheels; skid-mounted signs; signs converted to A- or T-frames; and menu and sandwich signs.
2. Pennants, banners, streamers and all other fluttering, spinning or similar type signs and advertising devices are prohibited except for national flags and flags of political subdivisions of the United States and except for flags of bona fide civic, charitable, fraternal, and welfare organizations, and except during nationally recognized holiday periods, or events sponsored by the city or special events permitted under the city Code of Ordinances, pennants, banners, streamers and other fluttering, spinning or similar type of advertising devices pertaining to said holiday periods may be displayed on a temporary permit basis as provided for in these regulations.

3. Signs shall be prohibited over public streets, sidewalks and alleys unless permitted on a temporary permit basis by the city commission.
4. No sign, portable or otherwise, shall be erected, constructed or maintained on corners, front yard or side yard setbacks so as to interfere with the vision of vehicle operators on the abutting streets.
5. No signs shall be attached to trees, utility poles or any other unapproved supporting structure.
6. Strip lighting to outline a structure shall be prohibited except as the strip lighting may be an integral part of a permitted sign.
7. Billboards and snipe signs shall be prohibited.
8. No signs shall be erected, relocated or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
9. It shall be unlawful for any person to display on any sign or other advertising structure, any obscene, indecent or immoral matter.
10. Roof signs shall be prohibited unless approved by resolution of the city commission.
11. No signs, including those signs described under section 6.02.00, shall be nailed, stapled or otherwise attached to coconut and palm trees.
12. Bumper stickers are prohibited on any building, structure, fence, poles, windows, ex

6.06.00. - District regulations and definitions.

The following limitations shown on table 6.1 shall be applicable to all signs located on lots within the various zoning districts. The NP designation indicates that the particular sign type is not permitted within the particular zoning district. When a limitation is placed on the square footage, this limitation shall be on the total square footage of all the signs of the type indicated, unless otherwise noted. Table 6.1 is amended by excluding political signs from temporary painted paper, cardboard, or wood and creating a separate designation for political signs. Non-illuminated signs, flat walls signs, and detached signs square footage is amended as set forth in the table.

TABLE 6.1

	Zoning District ⁽¹⁾					
Sign Type	RS, RD ⁽²⁾ , RTW	RM-15 ⁽²⁾ ⁽³⁾ , RM-24	Commercial C-1, C2, C3 ⁽⁶⁾ & Dolphin Community Urban Center DCUC	SPO ⁽⁶⁾	Industrial I-1, I- 2, I-3	University City ⁽¹⁰⁾ UC
Political signs	Not to exceed 32 square feet	Not to exceed 32 square feet	10% of area of window or door ⁽⁸⁾ not to exceed 32 square feet	Not to exceed 32 square feet	Same as commercial	See note 10 below.

Sec. 26-7. - Bond required to place campaign posters; removal of posters after election.

- (a) Any person participating in political campaigns wishing to place campaign posters within the city limits of the city shall be required to place with the city clerk a bond, in cash or campaign voucher, in the amount of \$100.00 if signs are equal to or less than 36 inches long and \$200.00 if any signs are in excess of 36 inches long.
- (b) At the conclusion of any particular political campaign for which a bond has been posted, the maker of the bond shall have ten days to remove all signs or political campaign posters from within the city limits, and if the code compliance division determines that the signs have been removed, the funds shall be refunded. If the code compliance division determines the campaign posters have not been removed in the ten-day period, the bond shall be forfeited and shall be used by the city as compensation for the removal of any campaign posters or signs left within the city limits.
- (c) Nothing in subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall allow or authorize the placing of any political signs or campaign posters which are prohibited under any provisions of this Code.