



ADVERTISING & YARD SIGNS

ILLEGAL PLACEMENT

**BE RESPONSIBLE &
BE COMPLIANT**

City of Detroit CODE OF ORDINANCES

Secs. 4-1-1-4-5-20.

The Detroit sign ordinance is intended to balance public and private interests, while providing for a safe, well-maintained, and vibrant City.

Violations of the sign regulations are deemed a public nuisance; they create visual clutter for everyone and are subject to removal and ticketing.



DEFINITIONS

Advertising sign means a sign containing a commercial message intended to direct attention to a business, profession, commodity, service, or entertainment, that is conducted, sold, or offered elsewhere than on the premises where the sign is located.

Temporary sign means a business sign to be displayed for a limited time.

Illegal sign means any of the following:

- A sign posted on public property.
- A sign posted in a prohibited area.
- A sign of the wrong dimensions.
- A campaign sign posted outside of the allowed timeframe.

DID YOU KNOW?

It is unlawful to post signs on public property including utility poles, utility boxes, trash cans, bus stops, fences, grass berms and boulevards, or highway entrance and exit ramps.

Political campaign signs, realtor signs, yard sale/estate sale signs and lost pet signs are all temporary portable signs which may be placed on occupied private residential property with the permission of the owner.

Only one (1) political/campaign sign allowed per residential property unless the property is a multi-tenant building. Signs must be set back five (5) or more feet from the sidewalk.

COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

Portable temporary signs may not exceed six square feet in area for any single sign or 18 square feet in aggregate area for all signs.

Campaign signs are permissible only during the period 30 days prior and seven days after the date of any federal, state, or local primary election.

Violations of the sign ordinance are subject to fines calculated on a per sign basis - \$600 for first offense, \$1200 for second offense, \$3000 for additional offenses.

[Detroit Advertising and Sign User Guide](#)
For more information: 313-628-2451 or signs@detroitmi.gov.

