

Sign Laws in El Cajon

The City of El Cajon has a comprehensive Sign Ordinance that details the type, size, location and number of signs businesses may display. The Sign Ordinance is intended to serve the interests of community aesthetics, vehicular and pedestrian safety, to protect and preserve property values, to improve the visual environment of the City to promote commerce, investment, tourism and visitation, and the overall quality of life for persons living in, doing business in or visiting the City.

Because the Ordinance has many different facets, it is recommended that you contact the Planning Division of the Department of Community Development at 619-441-1742 before purchasing or installing a sign.

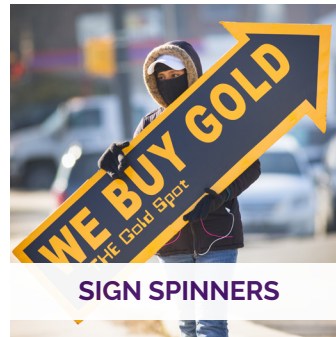
The following is a synopsis of frequent issues relating to signage in the city.



STAKE SIGNS



A-FRAME SIGNS



SIGN SPINNERS



SIGNS NOT ALLOWED IN EL CAJON



PERMANENT BANNERS



Community Development Department
619.441.1742



Temporary Signs

Temporary signs such as banners, inflatables, pennants, flags, streamers, and balloons are only permitted under the following conditions:

GRAND OPENINGS: New businesses may advertise their "grand opening" using temporary signage for the first 30 days of operation.

TEMPORARY USE PERMITS: Businesses may request up to two Temporary Use Permits per calendar year for a 2-week display of temporary signage. The request must be made at least two weeks in advance to ensure time for processing.

VALENTINE'S/PRESIDENT'S DAY: From the second Saturday before Valentine's Day through two days after President's Day.

MOTHER'S DAY: From the second Saturday before Mother's Day through two days after Mother's Day.

INDEPENDENCE DAY: From the second Saturday before Independence Day through two days after Independence Day.

LABOR DAY: From the second Saturday before Labor Day through two days after Labor Day.

HOLIDAYS: From the day after Thanksgiving through the third day of January.

HOLIDAY SIGN EXCEPTIONS

Sign Maintenance

All signs, whether permanent or approved temporary signs, must be properly maintained respecting appearance, structure, line of sight, electrical and mechanical features.

Enforcement

Enforcement of the Sign Ordinance usually consists of a written or verbal warning. If the violation continues, a citation may be issued. The citation schedule allows for fines from \$100 to \$2500 per day, per violation within a 12-month period. If you wish to appeal the citation, you must obtain a Request for an Administrative Hearing form from the Planning Division. A deposit in the amount of the citation must be submitted with a completed hearing request. If the hearing officer rules in your favor, the deposit will be refunded in full.

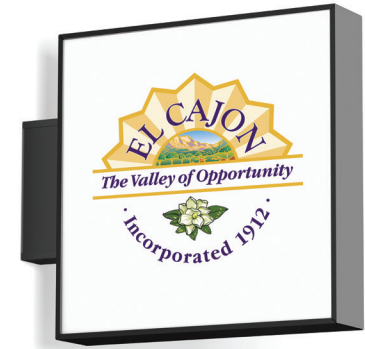
Exceptions

There are exceptions in the Ordinance including, but not limited to: real estate sales signs, construction signs, "for rent" signs and signage for businesses on more than two acres. Regulations for these and other specific sign issues may be found in the Sign Ordinance.

You may review the Ordinance online at elcajon.gov. On the Home page, click on "Municipal Code" under "Quick Links". Sign Regulations are found in Title 17.

Under no circumstances may a sign be posted or located in the public right of way, on utility poles, on traffic signs or signals, on private property without permission of the property owner, or in a manner that would impede or obscure pedestrian or vehicle movement or visibility.

Businesses within Downtown El Cajon Specific Plan 182 may have portable signs no larger than 20x42 inches, subject to the issuance of an encroachment permit.



BUSINESS SIGN GUIDE

Community Development Department
619.441.1742