

Signs Exempt

The following signs do not require a sign permit; however, they must meet the requirements listed under each.

- **Political Signs**- less than 4 sq. ft., with property owner's permission and removed 5 days after election
- **Construction Sign**- less than 9 sq. ft.
- **No trespassing/warning signs**- less than 4 sq. ft.
- **Seasonal/Holiday signs and decorations**- must be associated with national or religious holidays.
- **Flags or insignia** of any governmental, non-profit or business organization.
- Signs *required* by law, statute or ordinance.
- **Special event signs and special event directional signs** (including portable signs and banners related to events sponsored by non-profit orgs.
- **Bulletin signs** incidental to churches/synagogues and schools- must be 12 sq. ft. or less and have a max. height of 6 feet.
- **Incidental Signs**- a single face, non-illuminated sign attached to a building stating store hours, credit cards honored, etc.
- **Real Estate Signs**- one sign per property, double sided, less than 4 sq. ft. Must be removed within 7 days of "Sold."
- **Agricultural Signs**- must be used less than 6 months of the year, be less than 32 sq. ft. and be non-illuminated.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do sign permits expire?

A: Only if you do not begin construction within 6 months from when the permit is issued. Temporary sign permits expire 30 days after they are issued.

Q: May signs be illuminated?

A: Only freestanding, monument and wall signs may be illuminated. There are further restrictions on the glare associated with illuminated lights.

Q: What about signs that existed before October 1, 2006 that do not meet the requirements in the sign ordinance?

A: These signs may be maintained; however any change, replacement or relocation will require that the sign be brought into compliance with this ordinance.

Q: Do non-profits need to obtain a sign permit?

A: Non-profits must obtain a permit for any sign that does not meet the list of exemptions. However, if a non-profit applies for a temporary sign permit, the sign permit fee may be waived.

Q: Are agriculture signs allowed?

A: Yes, providing they are not used more than 6 months of the year and they are non-illuminated signs less than 32 sq. ft.

For more information, please contact:

Town of Mills River
124 Town Center Drive
Mills River, NC 28759
(828) 890-2901

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Sign Ordinance

The Town of Mills River Sign Ordinance became effective on October 1, 2006. This ordinance requires that **all** signs not listed as exempt from this ordinance (see list) be issued a sign permit by the town.

To receive a sign permit, you must fill out an application along with a sketch including the following information:

- Sign Dimensions
- Location on site
- For a wall sign, the building elevations with the sign

Additionally, you may be required to pay a sign fee as listed below:

Sign Permit Fees

Banners or Signs up to 8 sq. ft.	\$10
Signs 9-125 sq. ft.	\$60

Failure to comply with the sign ordinance could result in a civil penalty of \$50 per sign, per day.

Signs Requiring Permit

All signs that are not listed as exempt require a sign permit from the Town of Mills River. Any establishment within the Town may choose to erect a sign providing the sign conforms to the requirements below.

Choose one sign type from these three:

Permitted Sign Type	Max. Area	Max. Height	Max. Number
Freestanding Multi-Tenant	125 sq. ft.	20 ft.	1 per frontage
Freestanding Single Tenant	80 sq. ft.	20 ft.	1 per frontage
Monument	120 sq. ft.	15 ft.	1 per frontage

Additional permitted signs

Wall, Window, Awning, Canopy	1.5 sq. ft./ linear foot of bldg frontage	n/a	3 per establishment
Suspended Shingle Post/ Arm Signs	6 sq. ft.	6 ft.	1
Projecting	16 sq. ft.	n/a	2 sign faces/ business
Changeable Copy	32 sq. ft.	n/a	n/a
Off- Premise Directional	9 sq. ft.	n/a	n/a

Multi-tenant signs

Multi-tenant signs are allowed by permit; however, the following special conditions apply:

- One attached sign is allowed for each exterior business entrance.
- A single development identification or joint sign may be erected.
- Tenant identification signs may be a wall, awning, projecting or window sign.
- Where two or more tenants share a common entrance, each tenant may have a sign 20 sq. ft. or less. All signs should be similar in scale and type.

Temporary Signs

Temporary Signs may be granted for a period of thirty days for “Grand Openings”, closings, and special sales or seasonal events. Temporary signs should be removed within five days following the event.

Permitted Sign Type	Max. Area	Max. Height	Max. No. Permits
Banners	32 sq. ft.	20 ft.	4 per year (2 allowed per permit)
Portable Signs	32 sq. ft.	20 ft.	4 per year

Prohibited Signs

- Billboards
- Off-Premise Advertising Signs
- Digital/Electronic Message Signs other than Time and Temperature
- Revolving, Flashing, Strobe, Pulsating or Blinking Signs
- Any wall sign above the roof ridgeline
- View-obstructing signs
- Poster panel
- Balloons or inflatables except party balloons less than 1 cubic yard displayed less than 20 feet in the air
- Search lights or signs with lights varying in intensity or color
- Signs painted or attached to trees, rocks or similar organic matter
- Signs painted or attached to a fence, wall or other accessory structure
- Signs that for any reason obstruct or interfere with traffic signs, signals or devices
- Signs that emit audible sound, odor or visible matter (i.e. smoke)
- Signs that exhibit obscene material
- Signs that encroach on a required sight triangle
- Signs that may be construed as traffic-control devices
- Signs within public right of way or on public property unless expressly permitted
- Strings of lights not permanently mounted to a rigid background unless otherwise exempt.