

## Signs and Lighting Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** What are the big changes with the new sign code?

**A** Sign Sizes. Proposed regulations will require signs to be smaller in size and in height than current Island County regulations. Typical commercial freestanding signs are limited to 12 square feet and cannot exceed 5 feet in height. Sign Types. Current regulations regulate standards based on what the sign is for, new proposed regulations base standards on what type of sign is proposed – examples include projecting signs, monument signs, hanging signs and pylon signs.

**Q** What types of signs are now prohibited?

**A** The following sign types are not prohibited: pole signs, billboards, banners, streamers, temporary signs located on or resting against a motor vehicle, trailer, bicycle, planter,, abandoned signs and internally illuminated signs (cabinet signs or order boards).

**Q** What about A-Frame signs (sidewalk signs)?

**A** A-Frame signs are now only permitted in the Business Village District. Additionally, proposed regulations address design, display hours, dimensions (12 square feet) and placement. See Table 17.06.560.C.4 - A-Frame sign standards.

**Q** What if I have an existing sign that does not meet the new requirements?

**A** Nonconforming signs can continue to be repaired or maintained and must be kept in good repair. Such signs can continue without modification or alteration until such time that the sign is relocated or more than fifty (50) percent of the sign structure is damaged, replaced, repaired, altered, or changed in any way from its original condition, at which time the sign must come into compliance.

Additionally, a requirement for a non-conforming sign to be removed or altered to comply with new regulations may be imposed as a condition for the approval of a plat, permit, variance, or other discretionary development approval.

**For more information see 17.06.560 - Signs.**

**Q** What are the big changes with the new lighting code?

**A** In order to protect the night sky and eliminate unnecessary glare or light trespass, lighting standards are much more restrictive and detailed.

Lighting Levels. Proposed lighting standards regulate maximum foot-candles (standard measurement of light level), permitted at the property line to avoid glare and light trespass. Regulations vary by use and proximity to residential areas.

Fixtures and Shielding. Lighting fixtures must now be shielded. Cut off shielding is now required for residential uses with full cutoff shielding required for all other uses.

Fixture height. In order to further reduce light trespass, fixture height is limited particularly in areas close to residential neighborhoods.

Hours of Lighting. All exterior lighting shall be required to be reduced by 50% within one hour after close of business or 10:00 p.m., whichever is later, leaving only the necessary lighting for site and building security.

Other. Additional regulations are provided for special lighting types such as building lighting, canopy lighting, flag pole lighting, and sports and recreation facility lighting. **For more information see 17.06.570 - Outdoor Lighting.**