

Chapter 42 Portable Signs

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11-42-1 : Purpose and General Provisions

Purpose. The City finds that an overconcentration of portable signs is a distraction to motorists, interferes with the visibility of the traveling public, and creates aesthetic blight and visual clutter. In addition to Section 11-41-1, the purpose of this Chapter is to:

- A. Identify and provide for a variety of portable sign types;
- B. Provide for the appropriate size and number of portable signs in a manner consistent with the design and aesthetic standards of the City of Mesa, and the design objectives of character areas as specified in the Mesa General Plan; and
- C. Assure that opportunities for portable signs do not create visual clutter or in an over-concentration of portable signs that result in a distraction to motorists or interfere with the visibility of the traveling public.

11-42-2 : Portable Sign Allowances by Zoning District for Developed Property

- A. Allowances for the size, number, and height of portable signs for a lot or parcel are determined by the zoning district and lot size as provided in the Tables in this Section. The Tables in this Section are used to calculate the maximum number, size, and height of signs that may be used on a property. The types of portable signs allowed are provided in Table 11-42-3. The portable sign must conform to the standards provided in both Sections 11-42-2 and 11-42-3, the more restrictive standards apply.
- B. Example: A property owner wants to display portable signs at a three (3) acre shopping center in the LC zoning district. The shopping center is located at a street intersection. Using Table 11-42-2-E, the center is allowed two (2) portable signs per street front. The property has two street fronts; therefore, the property owner is allowed to display up to four (4) portable signs. The maximum individual portable sign area is twelve (12) sq. ft. and the total portable sign area allowance for the property is twenty-four (24) sq. ft. With this allowance, use the information in Table 11-42-3 to select the portable sign type(s) for the property, as illustrated by the examples in Table 11-42-2-B.

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Table 11-42-2-B: Portable Sign Allowance Examples		
Example: 3 Signs	Example: 4 Signs	Example: 2 Signs
1 detached rigid, 8 sq. ft. 1 detached rigid, 6 sq. ft. 1 fabric wall banner, 10 sq. ft.	4 detached rigid, 6 sq. ft. ea.	1 attached rigid, 10 sq. ft. 1 detached rigid, 10 sq. ft.
Total Sign Area Used: 24 sq. ft.	Total Sign Area Used: 24 sq. ft.	Total Sign Area Used: 20 sq. ft.

C. Agriculture and Single-Residence

The allowances for the size, number, and height of portable signs per lot or parcel in AG, RS, RSL, DR-1, and T3N are provided below in Table 11-42-2-C.

Table 11-42-2-C: Portable Sign Allowances Per Lot or Parcel					
Lot Size	Max. Aggregate Sign Area	Max. Individual Sign Area	Max. Number of Signs Per Street Front	Max. Height	Minimum Separation
1-Acre or Less	12 sq. ft.	6 sq. ft.	1	6-feet	--
1-Acre or More	24 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	2	6-feet	50-feet

D. Multi-Residence, Office, and Light Commercial

The allowances for the size, number, and height of portable signs per lot or parcel in RM, DR-2, DR-3, OC, NC, DB-1, and T4N are provided below in Table 11-42-2-D.

Table 11-42-2-D: Portable Sign Allowances Per Lot or Parcel ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾					
Lot Size	Max. Aggregate Sign Area	Max. Individual Sign Area	Max. Number of Signs Per Street Front	Max. Height	Minimum Separation
1-Acre or Less	12 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.	1	6-feet	--
More Than 1-Acre and Less Than 5-Acres	24 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.	2	6-feet	30-feet
5-Acres or More	48 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.	3, plus 1 per each additional 5-acres, Max: 4	6-feet	50-feet

⁽¹⁾ Portable sign types are limited to the size and height provided in Table 11-42-3.

⁽²⁾ Air activated and balloon sign maximum heights are provided in Table 11-42-3. Sign area of balloons are not counted against the maximum aggregate sign area. See section 11-42-6 for additional requirements for fabric signs.

E. Commercial and Industrial

The allowances for the size, number, and height of portable signs per lot or parcel in LC, GC, DB-2, PEP, LI, GI, HI, and EO are provided in Table 11-42-2-E.

Table 11-42-2-E: Portable Sign Allowances Per Lot or Parcel ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾					
Lot Size	Max. Aggregate Sign Area	Max. Individual Sign Area	Max. Number of Signs Per Street Front	Max. Height	Minimum Separation
2-Acres or Less	12 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.	1	8-feet	--
More Than 2-Acres and Less Than 5-Acres	24 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.	2	8-feet	50-feet
5-Acres or More	32 sq. ft., plus an additional 12 sq. ft. per each additional 5-acres	12 sq. ft.	3, plus 1 per each additional 5-acres	8-feet	75-feet

⁽¹⁾ Portable sign types are limited to the size and height provided in Table 11-42-3.

⁽²⁾ Air activated and balloon sign maximum heights are provided in Table 11-42-3. Sign area of balloons are not counted against the maximum aggregate sign area. See section 11-42-6 for additional requirements for fabric signs.

F. Neighborhood and Main Street Transects

The allowances for the size, number, and height of portable signs for each building in the T4NF, T4MS, T5N, and T5MSF are provided in Table 11-42-2-F.

Table 11-42-2-F: Portable Sign Allowances Per Building ⁽¹⁾							
Width of Building	Max. Aggregate Sign Area	Max. Individual Sign Area			Max. Number of Signs per Street Front	Max. Height	Minimum Separation
		Rigid	Semi-Rigid	Wall and Detached Banners ⁽²⁾			
30 Feet or Less	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	1	6-feet	10-feet
More Than 30 Feet and Less Than 61 Feet	16 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.	2	6-feet	20-feet
More Than 60 Feet and Less Than 91 Feet	24 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	16 sq. ft.	3	6-feet	20-feet
91 Feet or More	32 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	24 sq. ft.	4	6-feet	25-feet

⁽¹⁾ Portable sign types are limited to the size and height provided in Table 11-42-3.

⁽²⁾ See section 11-42-6 for additional requirements for fabric signs.

G. Mixed-Use and Urban

The allowances for the size, number, and height of portable signs for each building in the MX, DC, T5MS, T6MS, and all districts with a ‘U’ character designator are provided in Table 11-42-2-G.

Table 11-42-2-G: Portable Sign Allowances Per Building ⁽¹⁾						
Width of Building	Max. Aggregate Sign Area	Max. Individual Sign Area		Max. Number of Signs, per Street Front	Max. Height	Minimum Separation
		Rigid	Wall Banner ⁽²⁾			
30 Feet or Less	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	1	6-feet	10-feet
More Than 30 and Less Than 61 Feet	16 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	12 sq. ft.	2	6-feet	20-feet
More Than 60 and Less Than 91 Feet	24 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	16 sq. ft.	3	6-feet	20-feet
91 Feet or More	32 sq. ft.	8 sq. ft.	24 sq. ft.	4	6-feet	25-feet

⁽¹⁾ Portable sign types are limited to the size and height provided in Table 11-42-3.

⁽²⁾ See section 11-42-6 for additional requirements for wall banners.

H. Downtown Pedestrian Area




1. The downtown area is an intense pedestrian area with buildings built to the property line thus requiring some allowance for signage in or over the right of way. The sign requirements and allowances have been adjusted for the downtown to meet the unique needs of this area.
2. A business owner within the DPA, can display portable signs within the right-of-way subject to all of the following conditions:
 - a. Annually apply for and obtain an Administrative Use Permit (AUP) from the City of Mesa Planning Director or designee. The AUP is valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance.
 - b. Renew the AUP within thirty (30) days of the expiration date of the current AUP. The Planning Director shall renew the AUP provided that, on the date of application, the business owner is in compliance with all provisions of the Sign Ordinance and further provided that, on the date of application, the use of portable signs within the DPA is still an allowed use under the Sign Ordinance.
 - c. The application and renewal of the AUP requires submission of a Certificate of Insurance which complies with the City’s current insurance requirements.
 - d. Obtain an encroachment permit from the City Engineer.
 - e. The portable sign does not interfere with pedestrian movement or obstruct ADA access. A minimum access width of five (5) feet is maintained along all sidewalks and building entrances accessible to the public.⁷

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- f. The portable sign does not encroach into required off-street parking areas, and does not create site visibility conflicts or other traffic hazards.
- g. The portable sign is only displayed during the operating hours of the business and is removed during non-business hours.
- h. The portable sign is maintained in good condition throughout the term of the AUP.

11-42-3 : Classifications and Descriptions

A. **Permitted Portable Sign Types.** The portable signs as defined in Chapter 50 and described in Table 11-42-3 are permitted in accordance with the requirements set forth in this Sign Ordinance. The Table identifies the specific types of portable signs permitted in a zoning district and establishes the maximum size and height. The height(s) and size(s) in Table 11-42-3 do not increase the sign allowance established in Tables 11-42-2; the more restrictive standards from Tables 11-42-2-C through G and Table 11-42-3 apply.

Table 11-42-3: Portable Sign Types							
Description	Sign Type/Maximums	Illustrative Examples	Permitted Zoning				
<p>Rigid: A sign made of durable, non-pliant material such as wood, sheet metal, plastic, or other lightweight rigid material</p>	<p>A-frame or T-frame: A light weight portable sign resting atop the ground without penetrating the ground. Max. Size: 8 sq. ft. Max Height: 4 ft.</p>		AG	RS	RSL	RM	
			OC	NC	LC	GC	
			DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX	
			DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP	
			LI	GI	HI	EO	
			T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS	
			T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS	
	<p>Attached: Affixed to a building or wall.</p>		AG	RS	RSL	RM	
			OC	NC	LC	GC	
			DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX	
			DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP	
			LI	GI	HI	EO	
			T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS	
			T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS	
	<p>Detached: Affixed to post(s) or stake(s) that penetrates the ground. Max. Size: 32 sq. ft. Max. Height: 8 ft.</p>		AG	RS	RSL	RM	
			OC	NC	LC	GC	
			DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX	
			DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP	
LI			GI	HI	EO		
T3N			T4N	T4NF	T4MS		
T5N			T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS		
<p>Not Allowed <input type="checkbox"/> Allowed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Note: Portable sign allowances for properties in ID-1, ID-2, or PC districts are permitted as provided in the plan approved for that development or as allowed in the base zoning district.</p>							

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Table 11-42-3: Portable Sign Types (Continued)						
Description	Sign Type/Maximums	Illustrative Examples	Permitted Zoning			
<p>Semi-rigid: A sign made of cardboard, foam-core, thin plastic, paper, or other quasi-rigid but less durable material.</p>	<p>Detached Yard: Affixed to a stake(s), post(s), or other device that penetrates the ground. Max. Size: 6 sq. ft. Max. Height: 3-feet</p>		AG	RS	RSL	RM
			OC	NC	LC	GC
			DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX
			DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP
			LI	GI	HI	EO
			T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS
			T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS
			AG	RS	RSL	RM
			OC	NC	LC	GC
			DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX
DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP			
LI	GI	HI	EO			
T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS			
T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS			
<p>Fabric: A sign made of durable fabric or similar pliant flexible material.</p>	<p>Detached Banners: Fabric affixed to a stake, post, or other device that penetrates the ground. Max. Size: 12 sq. ft. Max. Height: 6-feet</p>		AG	RS	RSL	RM
	<p>Wall Banners: Fabric affixed to a building, wall, or fence. Max. Size: 32 sq. ft. Max. Height: Less than roof or parapet</p>		OC	NC	LC	GC
			DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX
			DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP
			LI	GI	HI	EO
			T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS
			T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS
			AG	RS	RSL	RM
			OC	NC	LC	GC
			DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX
DB-1			DB-2	DC	PEP	
LI	GI	HI	EO			
T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS			
T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS			
<p>Air Activated: A sign that moves or makes motions when wind is applied powered means. Max. Height: 12-feet</p>		AG	RS	RSL	RM	
		OC	NC	LC	GC	
		DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX	
		DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP	
		LI	GI	HI	EO	
		T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS	
		T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS	
		AG	RS	RSL	RM	
		OC	NC	LC	GC	
		DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX	
DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP			
LI	GI	HI	EO			
T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS			
T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS			
<p>Balloons: A bag or similar flexible, non-rigid enclosure, that holds air or gas attached by a tether to a fixed place. Max. Height: 20-feet</p>		AG	RS	RSL	RM	
		OC	NC	LC	GC	
		DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX	
		DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP	
		LI	GI	HI	EO	
		T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS	
		T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS	
		AG	RS	RSL	RM	
		OC	NC	LC	GC	
		DR-1	DR-2	DR-3	MX	
DB-1	DB-2	DC	PEP			
LI	GI	HI	EO			
T3N	T4N	T4NF	T4MS			
T5N	T5MSF	T5MS	T6MS			

Not Allowed Allowed

Note: Portable sign allowances for properties in ID-1, ID-2, or PC districts are permitted as provided in the plan approved for that development or as allowed in the base zoning district.

11-42-4 : Portable Signs for Undeveloped Property

- A. **Allowance for Undeveloped Lots or Parcels.** Any lot or parcel that is vacant, devoid of any development, or that is currently under construction, may utilize the portable sign allowance provided in this Section.

Table 11-42-4-A: Portable Signs for Undeveloped Property			
Property Size	Maximum Individual Sign Area	Maximum Number of Signs Allowed	Maximum Sign Height
1-acre or less	32 sq. ft.	1 per street frontage	8-feet
More than 1-acre	32 sq. ft.	2 per street frontage	8-feet

- B. **Prompt Removal.** Detached signs authorized under this Section shall be removed from a vacant lot or parcel within one (1) week after the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or equivalent.

11-42-5 : Non-residential Uses in Residential Zoning Districts

In the AG, RS, and RSL zoning districts, non-residential land use classifications as defined in Sections 11-86-3, 11-86-4, 11-86-5, and 11-86-6 may use portable signs in accordance with Section 11-42-2-D.

11-42-6 : Fabric Signs

In zoning districts where allowed per Table 11-42-3, each multi-residence development, or each occupancy in a non-residential development may display one (1) fabric sign, on property that is developed, if an Administrative Use Permit is approved. The fabric sign may be displayed for a maximum of thirty (30) days per calendar year. The days do not need to be consecutive, and may be divided into several separate periods provided the number of days, in aggregate, does not exceed thirty (30) per calendar year, with each calendar year beginning on January 1st. Additionally, each occupancy in a non-residential development is permitted additional fabric signs if a Temporary Use Permit (TUP) is approved authorizing a temporary use on the property. The display of the fabric sign is only allowed during the time-period the TUP is valid.

- A. **Wall Banners.** In addition to the requirements in this Section, 11-42-2, and 11-42-3, wall banners shall comply with the following:
 1. All corners of the banner must be fastened securely to the building, wall, or fence in a manner that prevents high winds from removing or separating the banner from the building, wall, or fence or causes the banner to flap;
 2. Provide vents to ensure the banner withstands the wind; and
 3. Provide a minimum clearance of eight (8) feet above grade when placed above an area open for the common or general use of the public.
- B. **Detached Banners.** In addition to the requirements in this Section, 11-42-2, and 11-42-3, detached banners must be secured to the ground in a manner that prevents high winds from removing the banner.

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- C. **Air Activated and Balloons.** In addition to the requirements in this Section, 11-42-2, and 11-42-3, air activated and balloons shall comply with the following:
1. Secured to the ground in a manner that prevents high winds from removing the air activated or balloon sign; and
 2. Located at least fifty (50) feet from the right-of-way.

11-42-7 : Vehicle Signs

Vehicle signs are allowed if the following conditions are satisfied:

- A. The vehicle complies with Section 8-6-3(A) of the Mesa City Code;
- B. The vehicle is parked in an authorized location and in a lawful manner that is not distinct or different from the pre-determined parking area design; and
- C. During periods of inactivity exceeding two (2) days, the vehicle is parked in a manner so that the sign is not visible from the right-of-way, or if this is not possible, is parked as far from the right-of-way as possible.