

*Display and advertisement* - All outdoor lighting fixtures used for display or advertisement, shall be turned off after the close of business, unless needed for safety or security, in which case the lighting shall be reduced to the minimum level necessary.

*Canopies, store aprons and walkways* -

- The lighting fixture lamps shall be recessed into a canopy ceiling so that the bottom of the fixture is flush with the ceiling so that light is restrained to no more than 85 degrees from vertical.
- As an alternative to recessed ceiling lights, indirect lighting may be used where the light is directed upward and then reflected down from the underside of the canopy. In this case, light fixtures shall be shielded so that direct illumination is focused exclusively on the underside of the canopy.
- Lights shall not be mounted on the top or sides (fascia) of the canopy, and sides of the canopy shall not be illuminated.
- The lighting for new facilities (pump islands, under canopies, and the like) having a minimum of 1.0 footcandle at grade, the average horizontal illumination cannot exceed then footcandles at grade level, subject to a uniformity ratio (ratio of average to minimum illumination) no greater than 4:1.

*Parking lots, loading and display areas* -

- This lighting requirement applies to townhouse, multi-family, educational, institutional, recreational, business, and industrial uses;
- Lighting for all parking, display and loading areas shall not exceed an average horizontal illumination level of 2.5 foot-candles. All lighting fixtures serving these areas shall be cut-off fixtures.
- Height is measured from the ground surface to the bottom of the lighting fixture.  
Residential (multi-family) is 20 feet  
Non-Residential is 25 feet.
- Spillover light, vertical or horizontal, from parking area luminaries onto property that permits single-family use shall not exceed one-half-foot-candle at the property line.

*Exceptions* -

- Single-family residence.

- Agriculture uses. Lighting associated with agricultural use structures, such as barns, paddock areas.
- Construction and emergency lighting. Lighting necessary for construction or emergencies is exempt from the provisions of this article provided said lighting is temporary and is discontinued immediately upon completion of the construction work or abatement of the emergency necessitating said lighting
- State, federal roadways, and airport lighting.
- Lighting of the United States of America or Commonwealth of Virginia flags and other non-commercial flags expressing constitutionally protected speech.
- Temporary circus, fair, carnival, or civic uses.
- Lighting which is not subject to this chapter by state or federal law.

## What are the required zoning setbacks for signs?

Agricultural District

Minimum setbacks: 10' from front property line  
40' from side property line  
10' from public right-of-ways

Residential District

Minimum setbacks: 20' from front property line  
25' from side property line  
10' from public right-of-ways

Business District

Minimum setbacks: 20' from front property line  
15' from side property line,  
*(except adjacent to properties in any zoning district which permits residential uses, shall not be less than fifty (50) feet.)*  
10' from public right-of-ways

Industrial District

Minimum setbacks: 30' from front property line  
30' from side property line,  
*(except adjacent to properties in non-industrial districts, shall not be less than (100) feet.)*  
25' from public right-of-ways



## What about signs & outdoor lighting?

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- What is a shielded fixture?
- What are the requirements to put up a sign?
- What are the requirements to install outdoor lighting?
- What are the required zoning setbacks for signs?

## What is a shielded fixture?



All outdoor light fixtures except those exempted, shall be fully shielded. A fully shielded fixture must be a full cutoff luminaire or a decorative luminaire with full cutoff optics, and is defined as an outdoor lighting fixture that is shielded or constructed so that all light emitted is projected below a horizontal plane running through the lowest part of the fixtures. The light source visibility shall be shielded from the adjoining property.

## What are the requirements to put up a sign?



The following regulations apply generally to all signs and are in addition to the regulations contained elsewhere in the King & Queen County Zoning Ordinance & the

Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC):

*Sign permit required* - No sign, shall be erected, constructed, posted, painted, altered, or relocated until a permit has been issued. Before any permit is issued, an application for zoning and an application for building permit are approved. All signs which are electrically illuminated shall require a separate electrical permit.

*Inspection required* - Structural, safety, and electrical systems shall be in accordance with the requirements of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC). No sign shall be approved for use unless it has been inspected by the department issuing the permit and is found to be in compliance with all the requirements of applicable technical codes.

*Prohibited signs* - The following signs are expressly prohibited:

- Billboards and off-premises signs
- Portable signs, including signs displayed on a stationary vehicle larger than 3' x 3' in size
- Flashing signs. No flashing signs of any kind shall be permitted in any district, except for sign which display time, temperature, date and/or electronically controlled messages that change in 30 seconds or greater intervals are permitted by permit within the General Business District.
- Roof signs
- Simulated traffic signs or any sign that may be confused with or obstruct the view of any authorized traffic sign or signal
- Signs so located and so illuminated as to provide a background of colored lights blending with traffic signal lights to the extent of confusing a motorist.

- Signs affixed to trees, public utility poles, or any other unapproved supporting structure.
- Pennants, banners, flags, streamers and all other fluttering, spinning or similar type signs and advertising devices are prohibited except for national flags and flags of political subdivisions of the United States, and except for flags of bona fide civic, charitable, fraternal and welfare organizations and seasonal/decorative flags as indicated by specific zoning districts.

*Exempt signs* - The following signs are exempted from the provisions of these regulations and may be erected or constructed without a permit:

- Official traffic signs, warning signs, rezoning, conditional use, and the like, when required to be erected by a governmental agency, and temporary signs indicating danger.
- Commemorative plaques and historical markers erected by a recognized historical agency or governmental body.
- Address or identification sign, indicating the address and/or names of occupants of the premises, not exceeding five square feet in area.
- Flags, emblems and insignia of any governmental agency or religious charitable, public or non-profit organization provided, however, that no single flag shall exceed 50 square feet in area and no single zoning lot shall display more than three such flags.
- Handicapped parking space signs
- Non-illuminated signs warning trespassers or announcing property as posted not exceeding 1.5 sq. ft. in area.
- Political campaign signs
- Real estate signs not exceeding five square feet in area for residential or agricultural districts and not exceeding eight square feet in area in any commercial district. No real estate sign shall exceed a height of six feet. One such sign is permitted per parcel.
- Construction signs not to exceed one per road frontage. The total area of all such signs shall not exceed 12 square feet and are limited to a maximum height of six feet. Such signs shall be removed within 14 days following completion of the project.
- Temporary signs on vacant lots announcing an upcoming event (such as "Coming Soon"). Such signs shall not exceed 10 square feet in

area and shall not exceed six feet in height. Temporary sign usage is limited to no more than ninety (90) days per calendar year.

- Up to three (3) off-premise directional signs per organization for a total of up to four sq. ft. between the (3) signs, with approval by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Such sign exemption is for events occurring within King & Queen County only. The sign(s) may be placed 24 hours prior to the event date and shall be removed within 24 hours after the event date. Failure to do so may cause for removal/disposal of the sign(s) by the King & Queen County.
- Signs on a truck, bus or other vehicle, while in use in the normal course of business. Signs displayed on a stationary vehicle that are smaller than 3' x 3' in size.

## What are the requirements to install outdoor lighting?



The following regulations apply to all outdoor lighting and are in addition to the regulations contained elsewhere in the King & Queen County Zoning Ordinance & the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code:

*Public or private recreational facilities* - Primary playing area; Where playing fields or other recreational area are to be illuminated, lighting fixtures shall be specified in the lighting plan, mounted and aimed so that the illumination falls within the primary playing area and immediate surroundings so that no direct light illumination is directed off-site.

*Outdoor illumination of buildings, landscaping and signs* - The unshielded outdoor illumination of any building or landscaping is prohibited. Lighting fixtures used to illuminate an outdoor advertising sign either shall be by a direct ground lighting sign or mounted on the top of a sign, and shall comply with shielding requirements.