



Town of Bar Harbor - Code Enforcement

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN – BUSINESS SIGNAGE

2026

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide business and property owners with information about applicable Town ordinances and help avoid potential violations.

Please share this information with your tenants and employees.

A building permit is usually required before installing any sign, please check with the Code Enforcement Department if you have questions.

SIGNS:

- New signs and most updates require a permit from the Code Enforcement Office.
- Signs may not be erected, maintained, painted, drawn or attached to or on any tree, utility pole, rock or other natural feature.
- Signs projecting over the ground or sidewalk must have a minimum height clearance of ten feet.
- Window signs & lettering must comply with all applicable requirements.
- Outdoor neon signs are not allowed; however, indoor neon signs visible from the street may be approved.
- All signs must be located on private property, with the exception of State of Maine business directional signs.
- Projecting wall signs must provide a minimum height clearance of 10-feet above the sidewalk and/or public way.



- Sandwich Boards: One (1) two-foot by three-foot sandwich board is allowed without a permit, provided it is not located in a public way (sidewalk or street) and is taken inside at the close of business each night.
- Property owners of multitenant buildings must submit an overall signage plan to gain permit approval.

FLYERS, MENUS, MERCHANDISE, ETC:

- Sales flyers or other notices may be posted in windows up to 2 square feet per tenant, without a permit. Larger than 2 square feet requires a permit.
- No merchandise shall be displayed or stored outside of any business establishment. This includes the hanging of clothing and merchandise on doors and doorways and on racks within doorways.
- Any restaurant may display its menu in a manner so that it is visible to persons passing by the restaurant provided that it is displayed in a frame or a box and is no larger than the restaurant's actual menus.
- Awnings or canopies: awnings and canopies require a permit form the Code Enforcement Office. Lettering or graphics may be no more than 12-inches in height and are considered signage. 8-feet of clearance is required from the bottom of the valance to the ground.

FLAGS:

- Only flags of countries, states, counties, cities, religious and civic organizations are permitted to be displayed without approval, providing they meet a minimum height clearance of ten feet.
- Flags containing the word "OPEN" are not allowed for businesses located downtown between West Street and Park Street.



This bulletin is intended to provide business and property owners with information on applicable Town ordinances, explain the standards governing business activities and property uses in the Town of Bar Harbor, and help avoid potential violations.

Questions or Concerns? Please call the Code Enforcement Office at: 207-288-3329

Thank you for your cooperation.