



Town of Wethersfield FAQ's

What is the right-of-way (aka. "ROW")

Answer: The ROW is generally the area of public land containing the travel way of the street, including the sidewalks and grass shelf, if present. In some circumstances the ROW may extend into the front yard area of abutting property which could be any distance of a few inches to many feet.

Why Does Wethersfield regulate signs?

Answer: Signs have a strong visual impact on the character and quality of the community and perform an important function in identifying and promoting properties, businesses, services, residences, events and other matters of interest to the public. However, the uncontrolled proliferation of permanent and temporary signs may obstruct views, distract motorists, displace alternative land use, create aesthetic eyesores and litter along the roadways and streets of the Town and pose other problems that legitimately call for regulation.

My sign was removed. Where is it, and can I get it back?

Answer: The right-of-way is public property and materials placed in the right-of-way is considered littering. It is illegal to dump, litter, or discard refuse (garbage) on public property. Any and all signs located in the right-of-way may be discarded immediately.

However, the town is voluntarily providing notice to ensure and encourage compliance with its sign regulations. Beginning July 1, 2025, the town will be removing any signs that do not have a permit. Any signs removed will be temporarily stored for approximately ten (10) days. If contact information is provided on the sign, the town will attempt to contact the sign owner who may retrieve the sign at their own cost during that time. Signs will be discarded after ten (10) days. To obtain your sign please contact the Wethersfield Planning Department at 860-721-2838, or by visiting Town Hall during regular operating hours at 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

What is an unpermitted sign?

Answer: An "unpermitted," or "nonpermitted," sign is any sign located on any property within the town that is required to have a permit that has not received a zoning permit from the Zoning Official, or their designee, or without the express, and written permission from the Town Manager.



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What type of signs require a permit?

Answer: All signs on business and residential properties, with few exceptions identified in the answer below, and all signs on public land, including parks, public spaces, and the right-of-way (ROW). Sign Permit applications are available here.

What type of signs do not require a permit?

Answer: Political signs when placed on private property and with the property owners consent, address identification, "For Sale" signs identifying the sale or lease of the property where located, open house signs related to the active showing of a property for sale, special event signs such as birthday and graduation signs, and yard signs related to contracting or construction services, with limitations on their duration such signs can be located, and usually must be removed no more than ten (10) days after the completion of work. Certain other signs may not require a permit; these examples are illustrative and not exhaustive.

How do I obtain a sign permit?

Answer: Most temporary and residential signs can be approved by the issuance of Zoning Permit. Zoning Permit applications are available online and can be obtained at Town Hall. Sign permits cost \$25. Information is required on the permit application including details of the sign including the dimensions, lighting, material(s), and the location where proposed. Business signs and permanent signs may require additional approvals. Sign Permit applications are available here.

I am holding a special event. Can I put up temporary signs around town?

Answer: Yes. Special event signs are permitted subject to obtaining a Zoning Permit prior to placing the signs. Special event signs may be located off premises and certain off premises signs may also require the written approval of the Town Manager.

Can I put signs on utility poles?

Answer: No. Utility poles are private property of the utility company.

Where can I get more information on sign regulations?

Answer: The Wethersfield Zoning Regulations, available here, include extensive details and standards for signs. The information presented in the above FAQs are general in nature and not intended to fully describe the standards and requirements further specified in the Zoning Regulations.

For more information Please contact the Wethersfield Planning Department at:
planning@wethersfieldct.gov

or

505 Silas Deane Hwy
Wethersfield, CT 06109
Phone: 860-721-2838