

Comparison of Sandwich Board Regulations for Selected Communities

The table on the following page compares Chapel Hill's sandwich board regulations to 3 North Carolina communities and 6 communities across the country that allow sandwich boards. The comparison criteria are explained in the list below:

- **Max. Display Surface-** the maximum allowable area of signage per display surface. Sandwich boards are two-sided, so each side is allowed to have this area.
- **Max. Height-** the maximum height of the sandwich board sign and support.
- **Downtown Only-** checked if the community only allows sandwich boards in the downtown pedestrian zones.
- **Store Location Criteria-** checked if the location of the business/building affects its ability to have a sandwich board sign. For example, some communities only allow sandwich boards for businesses that are hidden from view, down alleyways, etc. while some only allow boards for businesses located on the ground floor.
- **1 per Business-** checked if the community only allows 1 board per business.
- **1 per Building-** checked if the community only allows 1 board per building.
- **Permit Required-** checked if permits are required.
- **Insurance/Indemnity-** checked if it is required that the owner of the sign has insurance or agrees to an indemnification statement. The purpose is to shelter the community from lawsuits resulting from injuries related to the board while it is on the public right-of-way.
- **Business Hours-** checked if the community requires that the sign only be displayed during business hours.
- **Regulate Content/Style-** checked if the community has special regulations regarding the appearance or content of the board. Some communities regulate the size of the letters, some limit the content to basic information about the business, some require that the letters be permanent, and some require that the sign be approved by a design committee.
- **Counts as Signage Area-** checked if the community subtracts the display area of the sign from the allowable signage area for the business/building.

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	Chapel Hill, NC	Durham, NC	Cary, NC	Davidson, NC	Webster Groves, MO	Milwaukee, WI	Columbus, OH	Mobile, AL	Randolph, VT	Brookings, OR
Max. Display Surface	6 ft. ²	6 ft. ²	10 ft. ²	6 ft. ²	6 ft. ²	15 ft. ²	8 ft. ²	6 ft. ²	8 ft. ²	8 ft. ²
Max. Height		3 ft.	5 ft.		3 ¾ ft.	5 ft.	4 ft.	3 ft.		4 ft.
Downtown Only	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Store Location Criteria							✓	✓		✓
1 per Business	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1 per Building				✓						✓
Permit Required		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Insurance/Indemnity		✓	✓		✓			✓		
Business Hours			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regulate Content/Style			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
Counts as Signage Area					✓					

- Durham, NC: http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/departments/code_enforcement/pdfs/sidewalksign.pdf
- Cary, NC: <http://vic.townofcary.org/index.htm> (LDO Section 9.6.4(C))
- Davidson, NC: <http://www.ci.davidson.nc.us/units/planning/ordinance/pdfs/14-Signs-hd.pdf>
- Webster Groves, MO: <http://www.webstergroves.org/index.asp?NID=214>
- Milwaukee, WI: <http://legistar.milwaukee.gov/detailreport/Reports/Temp/320200612401.pdf>
- Columbus, OH: http://www.shorthnorth.org/pdf/sidewalk_permit.pdf
- Mobile, AL: <http://www.cityofmobile.org/faqs.php?department=63>
- Randolph, VT: <http://www.randolphvt.com/town/pdf/signordinance.pdf>
- Brookings, OR: <http://www.brookings.or.us/Community%20Development/Booklets/sign%20info%20sheet.pdf>