



# HOW TO MEASURE SIGN AREA

## Quick Reference Guide

In order to determine if a sign complies with specific standards it is necessary to determine its sign area. Sign area is measured as follows:

### Sign Area - 8 Line Method

Draw the smallest geometric shape created with a maximum of eight straight right angled lines (squares or rectangle) which will enclose all words, letters, figures, symbols, designs and pictures, together with all framing, nonstructural trim, background material, colored or illuminated areas and attention-attracting devices forming an integral part of an individual message.



This is an example of one sign

DIMENSION CHART	
LINE #	DIMENSION
1	= 10'- 0"
2	= 1'- 6"
3	= 3'- 0"
4	= 1'- 6"
5	= 6'- 6"
6	= 8"
7	= 6'- 6"
8	= 2'- 0"

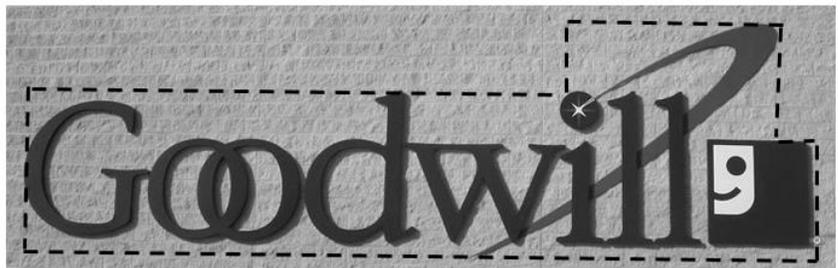
EXAMPLE SIGN AREA CALCULATION		
LINE #	DIMENSIONS	SIGN AREA
1 x 8	10' x 2'	= 20.0 sq. ft.
3 x 4	3' x 1'- 6"	= 4.5 sq. ft.
6 x 5	8" x 3'-6"	= <u>2.3 sq. ft.</u>
Total Sign Area = 26.8 sq. ft. Or 27sq.ft.		

When using this method to calculate sign area, the illustrations submitted must be drawn to scale and the scale identified on the drawings.

Please duplicate these charts substituting the correct dimensions of the proposed sign design. Number the drawing accordingly and show all mathematical calculations.

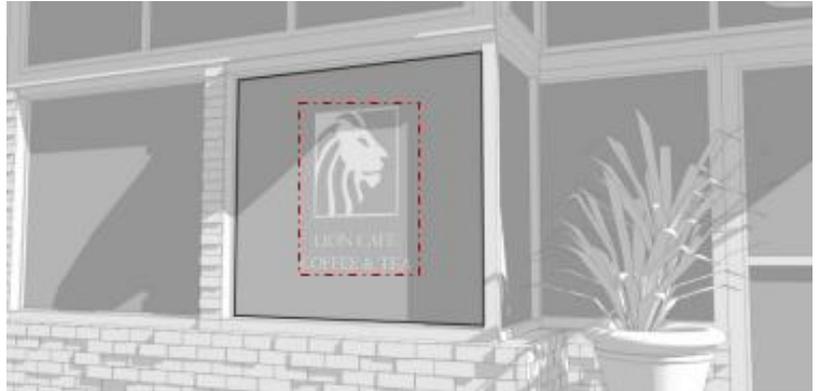
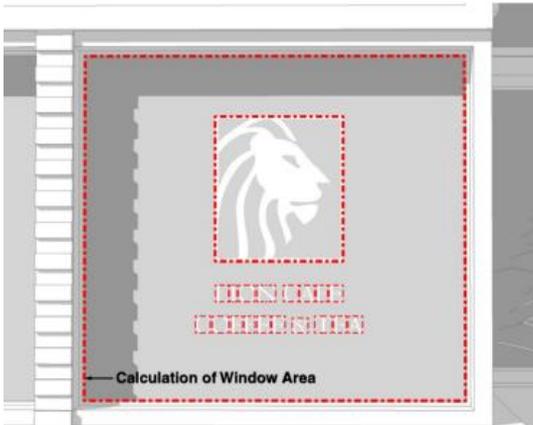
### Wall Sign Area – No visible boundary or clearly defined background

Wall signs having no visible boundary or clearly defined background area shall have the areas between letters, words or logos intended to be read together and any device intended to draw attention to the sign message included in the computation of sign area.



## Window Sign Area

Window sign area is measured using the 8-line method described above for each individual sign, or by multiplying the full width of the overall sign copy (lettering, logo, graphics) by the overall height of the sign copy in a rectangular manner, regardless of the arrangement of the copy.

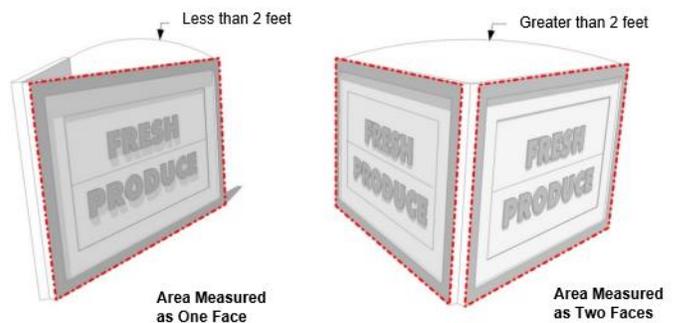
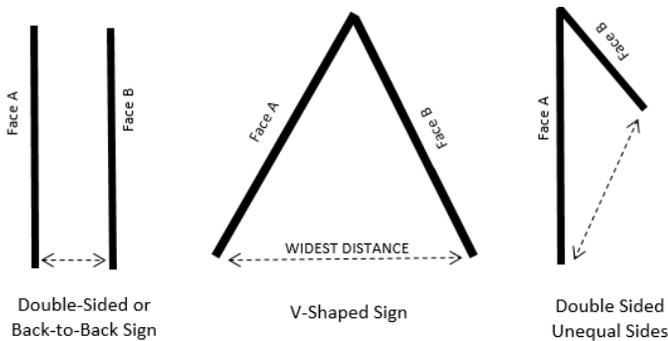


Window area is an individual pane of glass or a contiguous area of glass separated by nonstructural elements of dissimilar (non-glass) material or by structural materials.

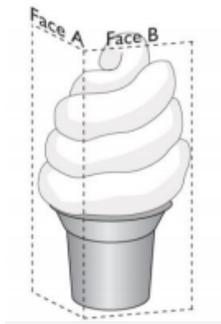
Window area in the panes separated by muntins or Mullions should not be counted separately, but included in the cumulative square footage.

## Double-Sided or V-Shaped Sign Area

Only one side of a double-sided sign or V-shaped sign is calculated provided the distance between the two faces is less than two feet apart. Where two sides are not of equal size, the larger of the two sides is measured. Where the sign faces are more than two feet apart all sides are calculated.



## Spherical and Three-Dimensional Sign Area



Signs that are spherical or have three-dimensional objects that project less than eight inches from the sign support structure shall be measured as a flat sign. Signs that project more than eight inches from the sign support structure shall be measured using the smallest two-dimensional geometrical shape or shapes which will best approximate the greatest actual sign area visible from any one direction.

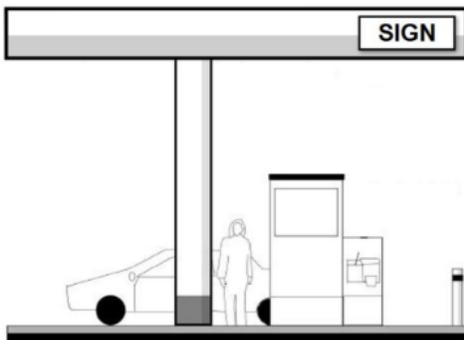
## Awning and Canopy Sign Area

The sign area on awnings and canopies attached to the building shall include the sign and all areas that are translucent when illuminated. When the ends of awnings are parallel and contain a sign or are translucent, only one side is counted in addition to the front.



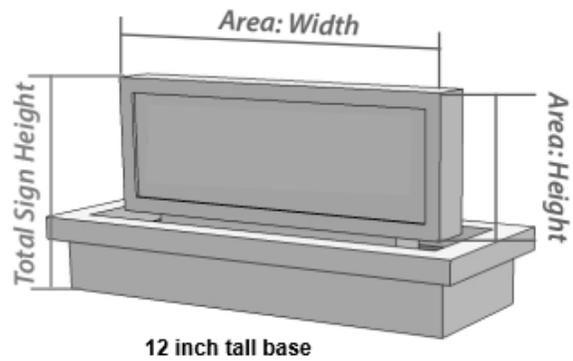
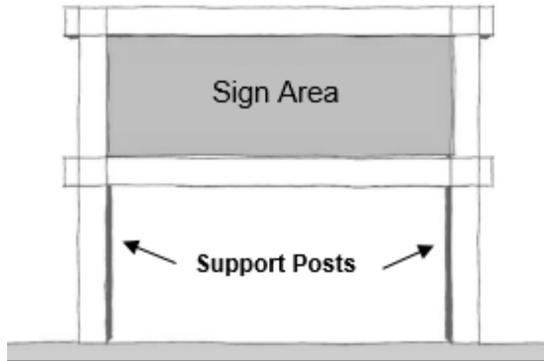
Awnings shown above are illuminated. Translucent material and areas with copy (includes striped graphics) are included in sign area calculations except parallel sides of an awning attached to a building.

Signs on all sides of a freestanding canopy structure are calculated.

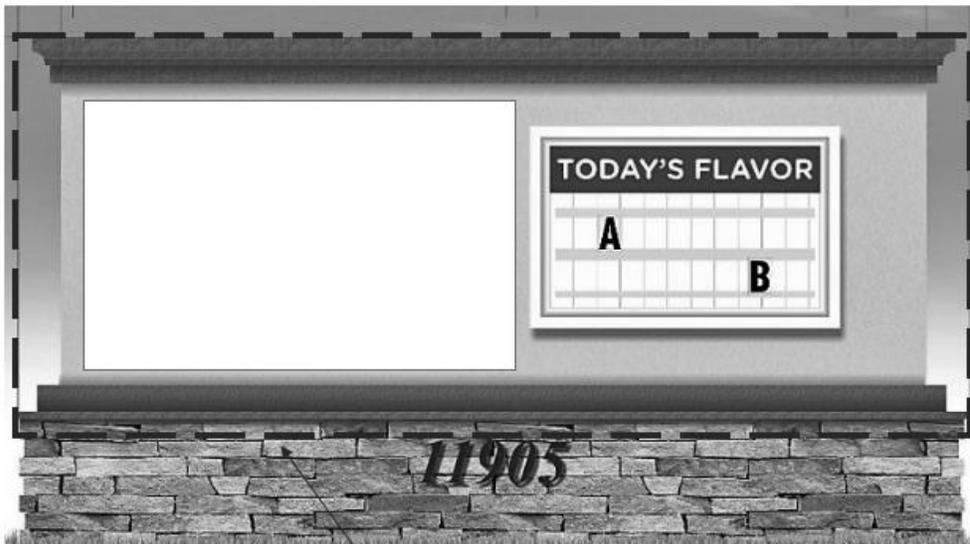


## Freestanding Sign Area

Sign area does not include the sign support posts or poles that are clearly incidental and are used only to support the sign cabinets, panels or nonstructural trim or serve another permitted purpose separate from the sign, such as a retaining wall, fence or other structure.



The first 12 inches in vertical height above grade is not included when calculating the sign area of a freestanding sign provided it does not contain sign copy; the first 12 inches is considered necessary to elevate the sign above grade or to provide a sign base for a monument type sign.



Sign Area to be calculated within this area, excludes 12 inch tall monument sign base provided no copy is on that area