

Street Name Signs - FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Are there specific letter sizes for street name signs?

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices states that street sign lettering should be “composed of initial upper-case letters at least 6 inches in height and lower-case letters at least 4.5 inches in height” (MUTCD Section 2D.43.04 Street Name Signs). If the sign is on a street with multiple lanes and speed limits that are greater than 40 mph, the upper-case lettering generally should be at least 8 inches and lower-case at least 6 inches. The larger lettering allows for easier readability at faster speeds. Generally, on a road with a speed limit less than 25 mph, upper-case lettering needs to be 4 inches and lower-case needs to be 3 inches. An overhead mounted street name sign could have a suggested upper-case lettering of at least 12 inches and lower-case of 9 inches (MUTCD Section 2D.43.05-07).

Type of Mounting	Type of Street/HWY	Speed Limit	Minimum Height Upper-Case	Minimum Height Lower-Case	Suggested Sign Height
Post	Local Two-Lane	25 MPH or Less	4 Inches	3 Inches	8 or 9 Inches
Post	Two-Lane	All Speed Limits	6 Inches	4.5 Inches	12 Inches
Post	Multi-Lane	40 MPH or Less	6 Inches	4.5 Inches	12 Inches
Post	Multi-Lane	More Than 40 MPH	8 Inches	6 Inches	*16 Inches
Overhead	All Types	All Speed Limits	12 Inches	9 Inches	*24 Inches
Post	Special Use Historical, Private Use	Less than 25 MPH	4 Inches	3 Inches	6 Inches

* Call Customer Service at 800-578-1245 for these sizes.

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How do I determine what size my street name sign should be?

Street name signs vary based on the length of the street name. Streets with a longer name will require a longer sign. The height of the sign changes based on where the street name sign will be placed. As a general guideline, the minimum height allowed for a street name sign is 6". The larger the sign, the easier it is to read when driving at higher speeds. The MUTCD is not specific on exact sign height. For maximum readability, it is generally good practice to determine sign height by doubling the text height. Sign height can be as small as 6 inches and as large as needed to clearly show necessary information.

What are the required colors for my street name sign?

There are only four acceptable colors for street name signs: green, blue, white, and brown. Green is the most widely used color. Green, blue and brown signs will have white lettering, while white signs will have black lettering (MUTCD 2D.41.18).

Is a border required for my street name sign?

A border is not a requirement for a street name sign, but if one is used, it needs to be the same color as the text. Green, blue and brown backgrounds should have a white border, and white signs will have a black border (MUTCD 2D.41.18).

Does my street name sign need to have punctuation?

According to the MUTCD, "word messages should not contain periods, apostrophes, question marks, ampersands, or other punctuation or characters that are not letters, numerals, or hyphens unless necessary to avoid confusion" (MUTCD Section 2A.13.04) (MUTCD 2D.43.09).

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Can my street name sign include the use of a prefix and suffix?

A prefix and suffix may be used to indicate the type of street (St, Ave, Rd), but it is required to be smaller than the street name. Upper-case lettering should be 3 inches and lower-case lettering should be 2.25 inches (MUTCD 2D.43.09).

Is my street name sign allowed to include images or pictographs?

Pictographs are allowed on street name signs, but they must be positioned to the left of the text and must not be taller than the first upper-case letter in the street name (MUTCD 2d.43.12-13).

Does my street name sign need to be reflective and/or illuminated?

Street name signs do need to be retroreflective or illuminated so that there will be optimal readability no matter the time of day or night. Contrast on a sign is also required to further aid people in reading the sign (MUTCD 2D.43.14)

What type of font is used on street signs?

ComplianceSigns.com uses Highway Gothic 2002 B font for street signs. This font was designed to be easy to read and to meet the MUTCD specifications.