

**Specification for Street Nameplates in
South Dublin County Council**

Revision	Date	Prepared By	Approved By
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Material

The material for street nameplates must be suitable for fixing to road boundary walls at a high and low level or to a suitable free standing frame. The nameplate is to be tough, durable, non-brittle, non-corrosive, vandal resistant, cast aluminium alloy, complying with B.S. 1490/1988 L.M. 4.

Pattern

Street nameplates shall be rectangular in shape and 250mm in height.

Length

Street nameplates shall range in length from a minimum of 500mm. Standard lengths are 800/1000/1200/1500mm. The total length of the sign shall be determined by the street name in either English or Irish, whichever is longer.

The inclusion of district names and postal codes would require the use of larger signs and are not to be included on street nameplates in the South Dublin County Council administrative area.

Sign Face

The street nameplate background is to be 'Moss Green' RAL 6005 with a raised border and lettering of 'Signal White' RAL 9003. All paint is to be stove enameled. Colours shall have a high degree of durability, non-fade quality and resistance to weather and hard usage.

Font

The form of alphabet and lettering size in use on street nameplates in the South Dublin County Council administrative area is 'Transport Medium' font condensed to 62% with an upper case letter height of 63.5mm. Condensing allows street nameplates to be of a practicable size while accommodating both Irish and English Text. The use of this font and letter size is based on the Irish and UK Traffic Signs Manual.

Colour Variations

Colour variations are not permitted. The 'Recommendations for the Design of Street Nameplates' (Department of Transport UK Circular 3/93) recommends that text on nameplates should provide a high contrast ratio with their background. 'The use of colour combinations with low contrast, for example bronze or brown lettering on green backgrounds, will result in poor legibility, especially under...street lighting'. Street nameplates are commonly viewed at an angle due to their location and it is therefore important that the lettering contrasts with the background in order that it is legible.

Language

Under the Official Languages Act (S.I. No. 391 of 2008), nameplates are signs under the Regulations and they must be in Irish or bilingual (Irish and English) in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations. Each sign shall provide the same information in both the Irish Language and the English Language and therefore lettering style, colour and text height should be the same for both the Irish and English text. Both the English and Irish version of the street name are to be in uppercase. Capital letters in Irish and English are to be the same height.

Only one line of text is to be used per language in normal circumstances. The street name in Irish should appear above the street name in English.

The Official Languages Act 2003 (Section 9) Regulations 2008 set out the following regarding signage:

(2) The following provisions shall apply to a sign in the Irish and English languages placed at any location by a public body:

(a) the text in the Irish language shall appear first,

(b) the text in the Irish language shall not be less prominent, visible, or legible than the text in the English language,

(c) the lettering of the text in the Irish language shall not be smaller in size than the lettering of the text in the English language,

(d) the text in the Irish language shall communicate the same information as is communicated by the text in the English language, and

(e) a word in the text in the Irish language shall not be abbreviated unless the word in the text in the English language, of which it is the translation, is also abbreviated.

Contact the South Dublin County Council Corporate Services Department for English to Irish translations of street names to be included on street nameplates.

*Oifigeach Gaeilge, Comhairle Contae Atha Cliath Theas, Halla an Contae,
Tamhlacht, Atha Cliath 24, D24 YNN5.*

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24, D24 YNN5*

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In the case where the street name results in a street nameplate that will be of exceptional length or of a length that will not fit within the constraints of the mounting location on site, abbreviations may be used. Either the Irish or English names may be abbreviated, but only to the permitted abbreviations in Table 2.3.3 of Chapter 2 of the Traffic Signs Manual, approved versions issued by the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, or approved versions issued by South Dublin County Council. The table below is extracted from Table 2.3.3 of Chapter 2 of the Traffic Signs Manual:

Term	Approved Abbreviation
Baile	B.
Caisleán	Cais.
Droichead	Dr.
Mainistir	Main.
Bóthar	Br.

Mounting

Mounting holes are to be countersunk and located at a maximum spacing of 300mm horizontally along the top and bottom borders of the nameplate. All mounting holes are to be used for affixing the nameplate in place.

Where signs are to be free standing, the frame shall be made of 3mm gauge 40mm square steel hollow section with welded joints. Plastic closing caps are to be provided on any part of the frame which is open. Frames and legs to be hot dipped galvanised to B.S.729. The nameplate is to be screwed or riveted and capped to the frame.

The legs must be of sufficient length to provide bearing within the foundation and to prevent overturning/vandalism. Bearing length is to be a minimum of 300mm when installed in a concrete footpath, and 450-600mm when surrounded by a concrete base and installed in a grass verge.

Prior to excavation of the foundation, a Cable Avoidance Tool and/or Ground Penetrating Radar must be used to establish the locations of any underground services in the area of the installation.

Where the street nameplate is to be mounted to a wall, suitable rawlplugs and 5mm diameter masonry screws are to be used. The length of the screw shall be dependent on the surface roughness of the mounting surface but should not be less than 60mm. Screws of differing lengths are to be used as follows:

1. Signs <1000mm in length – masonry screws of 60mm length used.
2. Signs >1000mm in length – masonry screws of 80mm length used.
3. Signs which are mounted on walls with a high degree of surface roughness (e.g. pebble dash etc.) – masonry screws of 100mm length used.

Locating Street Nameplates

Street nameplates should be fixed as near as practicable to street corners, so as to be legible by drivers and pedestrians. The nameplate should be positioned to ensure that vehicles and pedestrians that are entering a street for the first time can read the nameplate.

Street nameplates should be mounted so that the upper edge of the plate is approximately 0.75-0.90 metre above the ground at locations where they are unlikely to be obscured by pedestrians or vehicles. Street nameplates should be wall mounted at approximately 2.5 metres above the ground at locations where visibility of the nameplate is impaired. Nameplates should never be lower than 0.6 metres or higher than 3.6 metres.

Whenever practical, street name plates should be mounted on walls, buildings or other boundary structures at the back edge of the footway. Frame mounting should only be used where normal mounting does not make the plate conspicuous (e.g. where an important side road has a narrow entrance or in exceptional circumstances where the

nameplate is likely to be frequently obscured by pedestrian or vehicle movement and cannot be mounted at the 2.5 metre height.

Where possible, name plates should be fixed so that they will be illuminated by light from street lighting, especially at important junctions, provided they remain visible to vehicles on the main carriageway.

The nameplates should be so fixed that there is a clear space of at least 300mm in every direction between them and any notices, advertisements or other printed or written matter. Where possible greater clearance should be provided. Street nameplates should not be incorporated in other directional sign assemblies, but should be kept distinct and mounted in as standardised a manner as possible. Locations for street nameplates should consider future maintenance including keeping the view of name plates free from obstruction by trees and other vegetation growth. Frame mounted street nameplates should be installed to the front of any existing or future planting areas.

The location of street nameplates is to be agreed with the Area Engineer.

Supplementary Information

Where the street name changes at a point other than at a junction both names should be displayed at the point of change on separate nameplates which are adjacent to each other. An arrow should be included to indicate to which part of the street the names refer.

House numbers and directional arrows should be included on street nameplates within housing estates in cases where the same name is to be used for estate roads with more than one spur.

No other supplementary information is to be provided on street nameplates. The only information that should be included on the nameplate is the name of the street/road in Irish and in English.