

12 ADA Signage Compliance Mistakes to Avoid

*Prevent Costly Fines, Failed Inspections, and Legal Exposure
(A BlinkSigns Compliance Resource)*

Use this quick-reference guide to **audit your signage program** before it becomes a legal issue.

#	Mistake	Why It Matters	BlinkSigns Prevention Method
1	Incorrect Mounting Height	Violates ADA 703.4.1; makes tactile text unreachable.	Laser-level placement verified to tactile baseline (48–60" AFF).
2	Mounting Signs on Doors	Unsafe for users; fails latch-side requirement.	Always on latch-side wall with 18"×18" clear floor space.
3	Missing or Incorrect Braille	Grade 2 Braille is legally required for tactile signs.	Verified Grade 2 Braille on all photopolymer production.
4	Lowercase or Mixed-Case Letters	Reduces tactile readability; only uppercase is compliant.	Uppercase tactile text with visual subtext for branding.
5	Low Contrast / Glare Issues	Violates ADA 703.5; reduces readability for low-vision users.	4.5:1 contrast ratio + matte non-glare finish.
6	Decorative Fonts	Non-legible under ADA 703.2.	Use sans-serif fonts (Helvetica, Arial, Futura).
7	Glossy Finishes	Fails non-glare requirement under ADA 703.5.2.	Matte UV coating under 10 GU reflectivity.
8	Wrong Tactile Height or Depth	Less than 1/32" raised characters = noncompliant.	Laser depth verification to ±0.005" precision.
9	Improper Pictogram Field	Field smaller than 6" or mixed with text violates ADA 703.6.	Dedicated pictogram field with separate Braille/text zone.

10	Obstructed Sign Locations	Signs hidden by furniture or fixtures = inspection fail.	Field mapping and pre-install red-flag reviews.
11	Missing Required Sign Types	Section 216 mandates permanent room, exit, and elevator IDs.	Full scoping audit with photo-verified inventory.
12	Ignoring State-Specific Rules	California, Texas, NY add stricter overlays.	Cross-check with CBC, TAS, NYHRL before production.

How to Use This Checklist

1. **Print & Walk** — Inspect all permanent rooms, doors, restrooms, exits, and elevators.
2. **Measure Accurately** — Always measure to **lowest Braille line**, not top of sign.
3. **Check Finish & Contrast** — Use matte finishes only; ensure high light–dark contrast.
4. **Verify Braille** — Confirm Grade 2 format with tactile gauge.
5. **Fix Before Inspection** — Prioritize mounting, Braille, and contrast violations first.

Why Prevention Pays Off

- **\$75,000+ DOJ Penalty** (per violation, first offense)
- **\$10,000–\$50,000 private settlements** for signage non-compliance
- **Up to 90% cost reduction** for proactive ADA audits



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