

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
DESIGN REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR  
WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITIES/ANTENNAS

INTENT AND PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES:

The intent of these guidelines is to maintain the aesthetic and historic nature of commercial district or neighborhoods with appropriate siting of cellular antennas and towers. The purpose is also to require all wireless communication facilities to minimize visual impacts by providing for installations that are designed carefully, screened with landscaping or camouflaged to maintain the aesthetic quality of the surrounding area. The following design standards shall apply:

1. Antennas should be screened or hidden from the public view by the following methods: designed as architectural elements, screened with enclosures or landscaping. Screening materials shall consist of materials and colors consistent with the surrounding backdrop and/or textured to match the existing structure.
2. Antennas mounted on architecturally significant structures or architecturally significant details of the building should be covered with appropriate casings, which are manufactured to match existing architectural features found on the building.
3. Where feasible, antennas can be placed directly above, below or incorporated with vertical design elements of a building to help in camouflaging.
4. Equipment shelters or cabinets shall be screened from the public view by using landscaping, or materials and colors consistent with the surrounding backdrop.
5. Equipment shelters or cabinets shall be consistent with the general character of the commercial district or neighborhood.
6. Screening enclosures shall be allowed when the design is architecturally compatible with the building.
7. All exposed cables, conduits, surface mounted wires shall be concealed or painted out to match the building.
8. If a facility is to be installed in or on a historic building or structure, additional measures shall be required so as to not alter the historic significance of the building or structure.
9. The placement of antennas on buildings and other structures is encouraged and preferred over the installation of towers or monopoles. Where feasible, co-location of facilities, and minimum number of antennas shall be evaluated to determine the proposed facility has been designed carefully.
10. Lighting of these facilities is not allowed.