

# Tips & Tricks

Timesaving shortcuts from SignCraft readers

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Solutions for a Safe, Secure Business

## EXIT SIGNS 101

A successful and safe evacuation of a facility in an emergency situation takes planning and preparation.

Are you putting the EXIT sign over an exit door?

YES NO

Meets: NFPA Life Safety Code 101, OSHA Requirements, International Building Code 2009 and International Fire Code 2009

All Exits must be UL Listed

Directional exit signs every 100 ft.

EXIT Battery Backup

EXIT Photoluminescent

EXIT Electric hard wired

Markings every 100 feet

Exit route markers must be clearly visible at all times from all directions

Not An Exit

Each doorway that could be mistaken for an exit must be marked "Not an Exit" or similar designation

Best Practice

Reflective, Glo-Mor and Super Glo versions in case of a power outage

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## Everything you need to know about exit signs

Exit signs guide people towards a safe and orderly evacuation in the case of an emergency. With so much on the line it's not surprising that exit signage is expected to meet a rather extensive list of requirements in order to meet building, fire and OSHA requirements. The folks at Emedco have put together a helpful infographic that outlines these requirements in an easy to read format that you can download at [www.emedco.com/infographic/exit-signs-101.html](http://www.emedco.com/infographic/exit-signs-101.html).

An often overlooked aspect of properly posted exit signage is the necessity of marking doors that could be mistaken as an exit. Ideally these doors would be marked either as their intended purpose, such as Electrical Room or with a sign reading Not an Exit. Providing these simple yet necessary precautions will help business owners ensure they are meeting necessary code requirements.

*Paul Merlyn Thomas,  
Buffalo, New York*



## Window lettering that looks like bronze

I had a window project to do recently that led to an interesting effect. I planned to do the 4-in.-tall lettering in reverse on the glass, with a dark brown outline and a copper center, using enamel.

I first applied Dark Brown 1-Shot enamel through a paint mask using a roller. Two hours later, I peeled the centers from the paint mask stencil and rolled on Metallic Copper 1-Shot enamel. To my surprise, the copper either added a reflective layer behind the outline (or maybe even softened the outline) and made it look like metallic bronze. It looked great.

*Scooter Marriner, Coyote Signs, Oakland, California*

## Upgraded low-cost storage for the shop

I happened to see a nifty nightstand at one of the big box stores and thought it might be useful in the sign shop. It seems there's never quite enough storage and I had an area under a work table where the unit would fit perfectly. I bought one, returned to the shop and began putting it together.



When I got to the step that showed inserting cardboard for drawer bottoms I just couldn't use that material. Instead, I used 3mm aluminum composite material. I also used ACM for the backing. I simply placed the pre-punched cardboard backing over the ACM for a drill guide and drilled holes for the small brads.

In less than an hour I had the unit assembled and placed under the worktable. I liked it so much that I bought a second one. They're great for storage and much sturdier thanks to the ACM panels.

*Michael James, Apple Signs,  
Pineville, Louisiana*

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