A Post on Post-and-Panels

Posted on Jan 24, Posted by Ashley Bray Category Monuments

Post-and-panel signs boast new design capabilities and techniques to make them stand the test of time.

In our March 2013 issue, we post up about a tried-and-true form of signage: post-and-panels.

This traditional sign form may have a lengthy history, but it is anything but old-fashioned. In fact, sign makers are finding ways to dress up this signage with new materials, design capabilities, and forms of illumination. Techniques to make these signs last even longer have also improved, and the result is an all-around sign that can be used for many applications.

One of the companies we spoke with was Component Signage Inc. (CSI) in High Point, North Carolina. Stewart Curtis, company president, had a few things to say about the developments with post-and-panel signs.

Design

One of the things he has noticed is the improved modular nature of this signage type. “Modular post and panel signs have come a long way since their beginning, and now many modular accessories and add-ons are available to make each sign unique and personalized. With CNC Router technology prominent in the industry, custom shaped panels and frames are now easily manufactured and catered to the customer’s specific needs,” says Curtis.

These custom shapes can even extend to panel tops, which can be designed in any shape and easily removed from the sign.

Posts and finials are another easily removable element. “Many modular systems, like that of CSI’s post and panels, offer a wide range of post designs and finial tops for the posts,” says Curtis. “The options for different finial tops are abundant and they can be very affordable options for changing the look of a post and panel.”

In addition to removable, custom-designed elements, a shop can also work with the sign’s posts to give the piece a more robust appearance. Post mates, which are an additional post “mated” to the post just below the bottom of the panel, gives posts a full-rounded look below the frame. “This design option can also be more cost effective than the more custom shaped tops as it uses standard extrusion components and requires less labor to integrate into the sign,” adds Curtis.

Maintenance

To add longevity to post-and-panel signs, CSI uses automotive-grade polyurethane paint finishes, which provide a clean and attractive finish. This finish is particularly helpful on aluminum signs, as it protects the aluminum from the elements and oxidation. But the paint alone is not enough to maintain the sign. Proper care and cleaning must also be performed.

“The life of a sign’s finish can be extended by washing or even just hosing down the sign,” says Curtis. “Signs that are exposed to salt either from the ocean or snowy areas especially benefit from these periodic washes because of salt’s corrosive nature. Many post and panels are installed in the middle of a grassy area where mowers and grass trimmers are used. It is important to leave the detail work up to a trimmer so damage isn’t done to the sign from a lawn mower, and again it is important to wash off the grass stains that are left on the sign.”

For more information on post-and-panel signs, check out the article “Post-and-panels Forever!” in our March 2013 issue.

Photo courtesy of Component Signage Inc.

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