

Lighting for Residential Properties

Everyone is entitled to enjoy a home without intrusive light trespass or glare from other properties.

Shielding

All lighting fixtures must be “fully shielded.” The bulb must be fully recessed into an opaque top so that all light is directed downward.

Exceptions:

- Fixtures with light output of 900 lumens or less (60 watts incandescent).
- Motion-activated lighting fixtures with light output of 1800 lumens or less (100W incandescent) that shut off within five minutes after activation has ceased and are not triggered by activity off the property.
- Spotlights or floodlights with light output of 1800 lumens or less (100W incandescent) that are aimed no higher than 45° above straight down and do not cause “nuisance lighting.”



Two views of a doorway. Glare from the light at left makes it difficult to see the steps. After shielding is added to the fixture (right), visibility and safety are greatly improved. (Cliff Haas)

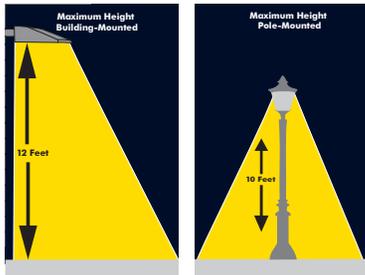


Light Pollution

What is it?

How can you help?

Placement



- Building-mounted fixtures may not be higher than 12' (fully recessed soffit lighting excepted).
- Freestanding fixtures:
 - May not be higher than 10'.
 - Must be set back from side or rear property lines a distance equal to three times the mounting height.

Hours

- “Non-essential” outdoor lighting, such as landscape or decorative lighting, shall not remain on continuously from midnight to dawn.
- “Essential” outdoor lighting, operating overnight, may not exceed 0.5 footcandles.

Different regulations apply to non-residential properties. For full text of the law, see Southampton Town Code Chapter 330, Article XXIX, available at the Town’s website: www.southamptontownny.gov/darkskies. A Quick Guide summarizing the law is available on the same website.

Southampton Town Dark Skies Advisory Committee



To our website



www.southamptontownny.gov/darkskies

Town of Southampton

Planning Division

116 Hampton Road - Southampton, NY 11968

(631) 287-5735

Light Pollution – What Is It?

Glare

Light shining directly into your eyes causes discomfort and reduces your ability to see. Glare is hazardous to drivers, pedestrians, boaters.



Light trespass

Light that spills beyond property lines can interfere with sleep and infringe on neighbors' rights to enjoy their property.



Disrupted ecosystems

All earth's creatures have evolved over thousands of years by adapting in a world that has been dark at night. Loss of true darkness can disrupt foraging, feeding, and mating habits, often with disastrous result, and can weaken trees by altering growth cycles.



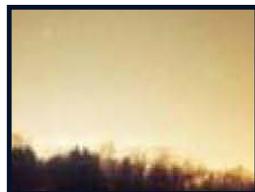
Wasted energy

Lighting that is unnecessary or excessive causes air pollution, squanders irreplaceable natural resources, and increases costs to homeowners, businesses, and governments.



Skyglow

...is obliterating the view of stars. As the night sky brightens, we lose more and more of the shimmering stars that have been a source of inspiration and information to diverse cultures across the ages—and a treasured hallmark of Southampton's rural character.



Wise Outdoor Lighting

The **Southampton Town Outdoor Lighting Code** is now in effect. The law applies to all newly installed lighting and to existing lighting that will be altered, replaced, or expanded. The basic principles of reducing light pollution are simple:

- Use “fully shielded” light fixtures that direct all light downward (see drawings at right).
- Confine outdoor lighting to your property.
- Use no more light than is needed for the task.
- Turn off outdoor lights when not in use.

Nuisance Lighting

What is nuisance lighting?
Lighting that causes light trespass or glare.

- Trespass is light that crosses property lines.
- Glare is a light source that causes annoyance, discomfort, loss of visual acuity, or momentary blindness.

Lighting that is deemed to cause a nuisance must be brought into compliance, even if pre-existing:

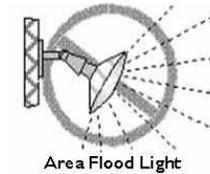
- Re-lamp • Re-aim
- Shield • Relocate • Retrofit
- Remove • Replace

Standards for determining “nuisance lighting” are spelled out in the law along with abatement requirements. The law provides procedures for affected neighbors to file a complaint and also sets forth remedies and penalties.

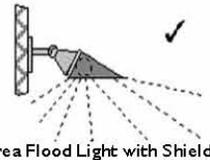
Good Outdoor Lighting Directs Light Downward

Not Acceptable

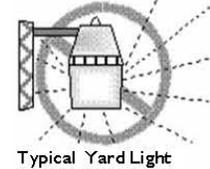
Acceptable



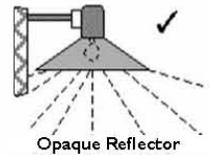
Area Flood Light



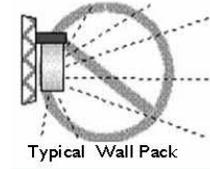
Area Flood Light with Shield



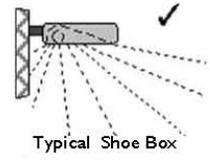
Typical Yard Light



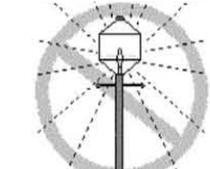
Opaque Reflector



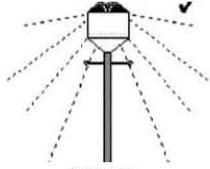
Typical Wall Pack



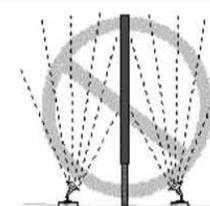
Typical Shoe Box



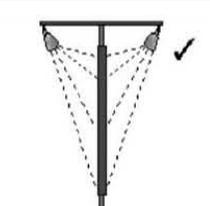
Post-style



Post-style
Bulb in Opaque Top



Ground-mounted
Sign Lighting



Top-mounted
Sign Lighting