



OUTDOOR LIGHTING CODE QUICK GUIDE

The purpose of the Outdoor Lighting Code is to prevent dangerous glare, save energy and money, limit damage to the environment and to human health, and preserve our view of the starry night sky. The law requires that most outdoor fixtures be "fully shielded." (See illustration on other side and full definition at §330-341.)

Applicability

- New and replacement outdoor lighting and lighting that is altered, repaired, or relocated.
- Pre-existing lighting on properties undergoing significant expansion (§330-342 B) and pre-existing lighting found to constitute "nuisance lighting" (see other side).
- Certain types of specialty lighting are exempted at §330-343 A; other kinds of specialty lighting and certain types of bulbs are prohibited at §330-343 B.

Residential Properties

Shielding

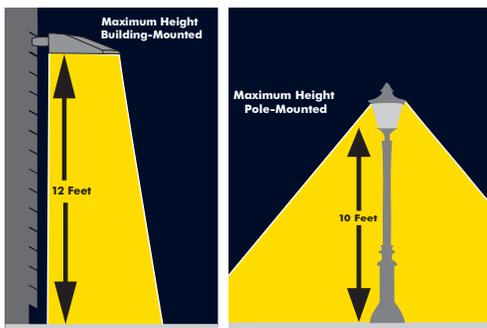
Fixtures must be "fully shielded" — that is, the bulb should be fully recessed into an opaque top so that all light is directed downward.

Exceptions:

- Fixtures with light output of 900 lumens or less (60 watts incandescent or lumen equivalent if other bulb type).
- Motion-activated fixtures with light output of 1800 lumens or less (100W incandescent) that meet standards at §330-345 B (2).
- Spotlights/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."



Placement



- Building-mounted fixtures may not be higher than 12' (fully recessed soffit light 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 and other decorative lighting, shall not remain on continuously from midnight to dawn.
- "Essential" lighting operating overnight may not exceed 0.5 footcandles (§330-345 E (2)).

(Over Please)

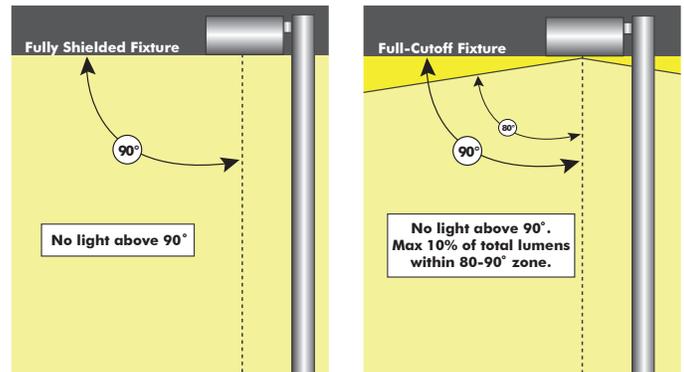
Non-Residential Properties

Shielding

Fixtures must be “fully shielded” or, in some cases, “full-cutoff” and aimed downward (some sports lighting excepted).

Placement

- Building-mounted fixtures may not be higher than 12' (fully recessed soffit lighting excepted) (§330-346 C (1)).
- Freestanding fixtures:
 - May not be higher than 14', but Planning Board has some discretion (§330-346 C (2)).
 - Within 10' of side or rear property lines, may not be higher than 10' and must be “full-cutoff” (§330-346 D).



Hours

- “Non-essential” outdoor lighting shall not remain on continuously from midnight to dawn.
- “Essential” outdoor lighting operating after the close of business should be controlled by timers or motion sensors unless otherwise authorized by the Planning Board.

Prohibited bulb types

Mercury vapor, metal halide, and bulbs with a strong blue tint are prohibited or restricted (§330-343 B (1), (14), (15)).

Illumination of structures, facades, sculptures

Prohibited unless approved by the Planning Board.

Maximum illumination levels

Lighting levels may not exceed minimums recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society; see Tables 1-5 appended to law. (Sports lighting, §330-346 I (6)).

Maximum illumination at property lines

Light crossing property lines so as to trespass on neighboring properties may not exceed specified limits (§330-346 H).

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.

Nuisance lighting must be brought into compliance *even if pre-existing*:

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

Standards for determining nuisance lighting, §330-342 B (4a-b).

Abatement requirements, §330-342 B (5).

Procedure for delivering a notice of violation, generally allowing 30 days to cure, §330-348 B.

Exempt

- Temporary emergency lighting
- Road construction/repair lights
- Holiday lighting • Flag up-lighting
- Underwater swimming pool
- Certain historic-style fixtures

Prohibited

- Searchlights • Neon
- Strobe/Laser • Flashing
- Revolving/Blinking /Pulsing
- Confused with traffic/maritime signals
- Illuminating a natural area
- Day-burners • Off-property



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