



LIGHTING

Wild By Nature

Mono County's spectacular scenic vistas and dark night sky are valuable and unique resources in rapidly developing California. These resources are important to quality of life for residents and visitors on whom Mono County's economy depends. Safeguarding the county's scenic beauty and dark night skies requires special planning considerations.

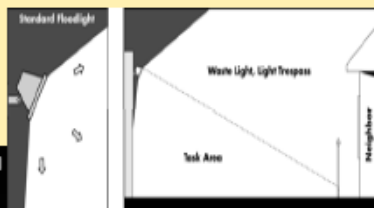
Lighten up on light

A bright light not only masks the stars and night sky, it makes areas outside the light darker and thereby less secure.

- When is light needed?**
 Very few night lights need to be on all the time. Timers and motion detectors activate light only when needed.
- What type of light do I need?**
 Light source should be down-directed, shielded and as low to the ground as practical. Lighting should be used only in the area where it's needed. The light source should not be visible off site, either to neighbors or passing motorists.
- How much light do I really need?**
 Provide only the minimal amount of light necessary for the purpose. Non-holiday outdoor decorative lighting is not recommended in Mono County.

Blinding lights or brilliant stars?

Where else but in the Eastern Sierra can you see so many stars in the night sky? Only where outdoor lighting is minimal, shielded and down-directed.



Unshielded light creates glare and makes it harder to see the stars and surrounding area.

EXAMPLES OF SOME COMMON LIGHTING FIXTURES

POOR



Typical Floodlight



Typical Conference Room Light



Area Flood Light

GOOD



Shielded Floodlight (downward beam)



Cupola Floodlight (downward beam)



Shielded Floodlight & Pole



For more information: [Altogether](#) [Altogether](#) [Department](#)

Chapter 23, Dark Sky Regulations

A lighting plan showing spec sheets for all exterior fixtures including design, wattage, location, aiming point, all materials, mounting, etc. must be submitted for all permits and on all elevations. Outdoor lighting plan shall include:

1. Manufacturer specification sheets, cut-sheets, or other manufacturer-provided information for all proposed outdoor lighting fixtures to show fixture diagrams and light output levels.
2. The proposed location, mounting height, and aiming point of all outdoor lighting fixtures shall be shown on the site plan, all elevations.
3. Drawings for all building elevations proposed for illumination should show the fixtures, the portions of the elevations to be illuminated, the illuminance level of the elevations, and the aiming point for any remote light fixture. Building illumination should be only the minimal amount needed for safety and reasonable access, such as walkways and entrances.












All new outdoor lighting shall use full cutoff luminaires with the light source downcast and fully shielded with no light emitted above the horizontal plane, with the following exceptions:

- Fixtures that have a maximum output of 100 lumens (equivalent to one 10-watt incandescent bulb) or less, regardless of the number of bulbs, may be left unshielded provided the bulb surfaces are obscured from off-site visibility with a semi-translucent or frosted glass that has an opaque top to prevent the light from shining directly up. However, partial or full shielding is preferred to control light output in all situations.
- Fixtures that have a maximum output of 600 lumens (equivalent to one 40-watt incandescent bulb) or less shall be partially or totally shielded using a solid or semi-translucent barrier, provided that the lamp is not visible from off site, no direct glare is produced, and the fixture has an opaque top to keep light from shining directly up; e.g., a low output-style wall pack.
- Floodlights that do not meet the definition of "full cutoff" may be used if permanently directed downward, if no light is projected above the horizontal plane, and if fitted with external shielding to prevent glare and off-site light trespass. Unshielded floodlights are prohibited. Flood lights should only be used during active need (for safety or while accessing or working in an area) and not for general lighting when uninhabited and not necessary for safety.

Full Cutoff Fixtures. A lighting fixture designed such that no light, either directly from the bulb or indirectly from the fixture, is emitted at or above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point on the fixture.

Shielding. A barrier around a fixture that helps conceal the lamp and control light distribution. A fixture that is "fully shielded" incorporates a solid barrier, emits no light rays above the horizontal plane and effectively obscures visibility of the lamp. A fixture that is "partially shielded" may allow some light to pass through a semi-translucent barrier, and/or may allow visibility of the lamp from certain perspectives.

For a complete copy of Chapter 23, please visit: <http://www.monocounty.ca.gov/services.html>

Unacceptable	Acceptable	Unacceptable	Acceptable
 <p>Floodlights</p>	 <p>* Hooded-type floodlights still require proper aiming to prevent glare and light trespass.</p>	 <p>Downlights</p>	 <p>Downlight reflectors</p>
 <p>Spotlights</p> <p>* Without shielding, these types of fixture spray uncontrolled light.</p>	 <p>* Proper aiming is required to prevent glare and light trespass.</p> <p><i>Three spots with hood</i></p>	 <p>Street Lightings</p>	 <p><i>These fixtures may be acceptable if using a low-wattage bulb. See 17.34.055.E.</i></p>
 <p>Wall Packs</p> <p>* Such fixture may be acceptable using only low-output lamps (under 1,000 lumens). See 17.34.055.E.</p>		 <p>Parking Lot Lightings</p>	