



Department of Community Development | 100 Third St. | Castle Rock, CO 80104 | Ph: 303-660-7460 | www.douglas.co.us

This Guide is provided to assist homeowners and landowners interested in maintaining dark skies.

Exterior Residential Lighting Guidelines

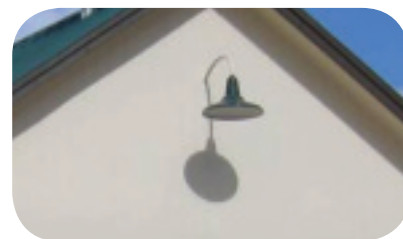
Residential lighting is used for safety, security, and aesthetic enhancement. When selecting light fixtures for your home, it is important to consider the surrounding environment. Night sky views are highly valued in Douglas County; therefore, selection of lighting that does not pose a nuisance to surrounding neighbors is encouraged. Douglas County provides these guidelines to help citizens minimize light pollution, glare, and trespass.

- Limit the number of exterior residential lighting fixtures on a lot to only those necessary for entries and way finding. The amount of light produced should be designated to maintain a minimum comfort level necessary for safety and security purposes.
- Lighting at entries and decks should be placed below an eave or shielded so that emitted light is downcast with no direct light radiated towards the sky or adjacent properties.
- Lighting at driveways and other entries should be limited to fixture types that are mounted low to the ground and do not exceed a maximum of 900 lumens.
- Landscape lighting is discouraged, especially up-lighting or “moonlighting” of trees and other landscape features.
- All light should be directed towards the property being served and not spill onto neighboring properties or roads.
- All exterior lighting should be fully shielded, meaning no portion of the bulb is visible through openings on the side or top, and the bulb does not extend below the fixture. Unshielded lights can be major sources of night-time glare and nuisance.

Lighting Examples



Unshielded light that produces night-time glare



Fully shielded light minimizing light spill-over

Visit www.darksky.org/lighting/lighting-basics/
for more helpful resources from the International Dark-Sky Association.