

Exterior Lighting in Hunting Valley

A guide for residents and designers to use to protect the nighttime lighting environment for residents and to maintain the established rural village atmosphere of Hunting Valley

What projects?

- **New Dwelling.** A full Lighting Plan shall be required and approved by ABR
- **Projects that modify over 60% of the allowable lumens require** the entire property to be brought into conformance. Otherwise, only the new lighting needs to be in conformance. In all cases, total lumens for the property shall not exceed total allowed lumens.
- **Minor lighting changes** require a permit and are subject to some limitations
- **Lighting Nuisance.** Exterior lighting that does not comply is declared a public nuisance. Upon receipt of a lighting complaint the Building Commissioner shall investigate to determine compliance concerns.

General requirements

- **Lighting Plans should include for all luminaires**, the location, height, lumens, color, cutsheet, type of light source, general appearance, building walls to be illuminated, aiming direction and angle in a table form including allowable lumens and subtotal for shielded, unshielded and grand total
- **Situations to avoid:** Light trespass, light pollution, glare, overnight lighting except where allowed, motion lights lasting longer than 10 minutes

Critical residential standards

- **Total lumens for all lighting on the property**, shall not exceed 50,000 for homes up to 5,500 sq ft of building ground coverage (BGC). An additional 500 lumens per 100 sq ft BGC is permitted, capped at 75,000 lumens.
- **Unshielded lumens** shall be a max of 30% of the total permitted lumens
- **Maximum color temperature of 2,700** except for security lighting, which is limited to 3,200 lumens per fixture and color of 3,500
- **Wall or façade mounting lighting** only permitted for entrances and walkways and shall not be used to illuminate buildings (i.e. "wall washing")
- **Driveway lighting** limited to 30-inch-high luminaires or "moon lighting." Max lumens per fixture shall be 1260 for shielded and 450 for unshielded, except for lampposts, that can be 2400 lumens, but are limited to 7ft in height and installed only at driveway entrances, intersections and unloading zones
- **Sports court luminaires** can only be 30 feet in height, limited to 1350 lumens and operate only when courts in use, and not between midnight to 9am
- **Landscape lighting** not intended to illuminate buildings, have max lumens of 1260 per fixture for shielded and 450 for unshielded, shall only operate from dusk to midnight. Moonlight fixtures max height of 20 feet and must be shrouded and limited in number. Pathway lights max of 30 inches.
- **Social area lighting.** Areas covered by pergolas and other structures shall only use ceiling lights and coach lights. The max illumination of all social areas shall be limited to 15 lumens per square foot.
- **Location of lighting.** Not more than 10% of total lumens shall be located more than 100 feet from the dwelling or accessory structure
- **Prohibited lighting** includes roof lights, changing lights, certain types of lamps, linear or rope lighting, lighting within 300 feet of the Chagrin River, large area lighting, and fountain/ statue lighting visible from contiguous properties
- **Exceptions include** temporary holiday lights, ABR exemptions, underwater pool and hot tub lighting and fossil fuel luminaires

Key Terms

- **"Fully Shielded Luminaire"** means a type of fixed directional outdoor luminaire which emits no light above a horizontal plane through the optical center of the luminaire. The light emitter shall not extend below the shield. Bullet and well lighting aimed upward shall be considered unshielded except within social areas located adjacent to the dwelling, an accessory building, or pool area.
- **"Glare"** means the visual sensation produced by brightness in the field of view that is sufficiently greater than the light level to which the eyes are adapted so as to cause annoyance, discomfort or loss of visibility.
- **"Light Pollution"** means wasted light directed into the sky which results in sky glow and the loss of the natural beauty and visibility of the sky and stars.
- **"Light Source"** means the light emitting portion (filament, arc tube or element) of a lamp that emits visible light.
- **"Light Trespass"** means outdoor lighting which emits unwanted light or glare beyond the boundaries of the property on which it is located.
- **"Luminaire"** means a complete lighting unit typically consisting of all electrical and mechanical parts necessary for operation including a lamp, ballast (in the case of discharge lamps), optical assembly and enclosure.
- **"Recreational Lighting"** means lighting of ball fields, courts, pools, playgrounds, and/or other outdoor sports, play, or recreational areas other than those accessory to single family residences.

Remember, outdoor lighting should only be used when needed, be no brighter than required and minimize use of unshielded lights

Chapter 1161 of the Hunting Valley ordinances covers all lighting requirements