



PRESERVING OUR NIGHT SKY

Community
Development
Department

City Hall
6136 Adobe Road
Twentynine Palms, CA
92277

(760) 367-6799
FAX (760) 367-4890

City web site: www.ci.twentynine-palms.ca.us

City Council

Dawn Benton, Mayor
Steve Spear, Mayor Pro Tem
Kevin Cole
Joel Klink
Elaine Bernal

City Manager

Michael Swigart

Planning Commission

Irving Stone, III - Chair
Chuck Caplinger - Vice Chair
Bill Easter
Dan Mintz
Rebecca Rinkes

Brenda Simmons
Community Development Technician

Gary Blackman, Code Enforcement

Preservation of the night sky to enhance the view of the stars in the evening is identified as a community asset in the City's General Plan. The proliferation of unshielded lights in the community erodes the night sky so the City has established procedures to require shielding. Our lustrous starry nights are a significant community resource.

Except those exempted in the Night Sky Ordinance, all outdoor lighting fixtures must be fully shielded or constructed so that light rays that are emitted by the installed fixtures is not directed upward or onto an adjacent property.

Any outdoor lighting fixture that directs light onto an adjacent property, and this light is not wanted by the owner or occupant of the adjacent property, is a violation. The following standards are applicable to all residential, commercial, public, and industrial land use districts:

- All outdoor lighting, unless exempt, shall be fully shielded. Outdoor lighting fixtures established prior to the date this code was adopted shall come into compliance by May 28, 2006.
- Street and parking lot lighting shall be oriented downward with cut-off fixtures. Fifty percent of all lighting fixtures within parking lots or within open lot sale areas shall be turned off within one hour after closing or between 10:00 p.m and sunrise, whichever occurs first.
- Residential Pole lighting shall not exceed twelve (12) feet in height.
- Billboards and externally illuminated Signs. Lighting fixtures used to illuminate any new sign shall be mounted on the top of the sign and shall comply with the shielding requirements of this Chapter and the City's Sign Code.
- Recreational Facilities. Public or private recreational facilities may only be illuminated while they are in use. The illumination must be turned off between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and sunrise or one hour after the termination of the event and/or use, whichever occurs last.
- Searchlights used for advertising purposes are prohibited.

The following outdoor lighting uses are exempt from this code:

- Liquid fuel or gas lamps.
- All neon lighting fixtures.
- Providing there isn't any light trespass or the lights are regulated by a motion detector, lighting fixtures are exempt when they are within five (5) feet of a door or alcove of a dwelling unit, and do not exceed eight (8) feet in height, and do not exceed 200 watts.
- Holiday lighting.
- Pedestrian lighting, or architectural lighting that it is freestanding or attached to a building, which does not exceed forty (40) watts.
- Vertical lighting for illuminating a properly displayed U.S. flag.
- Street lighting that existed prior to the adoption of this code.

The City encourages all residents to assess their outdoor lighting. Lighting fixtures which are not shielded should be retrofitted or replaced.

By shielding the light, the night sky is preserved. Lighting fixtures constructed so that no light rays are emitted at angles above a horizontal plane, can help preserve the night sky. When you purchase outdoor lighting fixtures, the City recommends low-wattage incandescent lighting.

If you are affected by lighting from neighboring properties, please contact the City's Code Enforcement Division. A signed complaint is required for all lighting complaints, complainants names are kept confidential.

Fixture Type	Recommendation or requirement
All non-exempt outdoor lighting	Fully shielded
Outdoor lighting fixtures prior to the adoption of this code.	Must be in compliance by May 28, 2006
Incandescent 40 watts or less	Exempt*
Neon lighting fixtures	Exempt*
Kerosene/gas lamps	Exempt*
Emergency lighting	Exempt*
Provided there is no light trespass or the light is on a motion detector, fixtures within 5' of entrance or exit, less than 8' height, and less than 200 watts	Exempt*
Street lighting that existed prior to adoption of this code.	Exempt*
Vertical lighting for properly displayed US flag	Exempt*
Holiday lighting	Exempt*

* The City requests that property owners give consideration to shielding all outdoor lighting so as to maximize our community resource of darkness.