

2.34 Lights, Exterior Lights

The purpose of the outdoor illumination standards is to:

1. Provide adequate lighting for safety and security;
2. Reduce light pollution, light trespass, glare, and sky-glow impacts;
3. Encourage quality lighting design, light fixture shielding, uniform light intensities, maximum lighting levels within and on property lines, and lighting controls;
4. Promote efficient, cost-effective lighting, and to conserve energy; and
5. Provide an environmentally sensitive nighttime environment that protects wildlife habitat.

In keeping with reducing light pollution to a minimum, the following should be considered:

All lights should have a clear purpose. Before installing or replacing a light, determine if a light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.

Light should be directed only to where needed. Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.

Light should be no brighter than necessary. Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.

Light should be used only when it is useful. Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.

Use warmer color lights where possible. Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

The Whispering Pines Design Guidelines for lights include the following:

All exterior lighting and modifications to builder-installed lighting must be approved by the DRC in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. All lighting, including any security fixture, shall be directed downwards and the light “cone” contained within the property boundaries to avoid a glare source to neighboring properties. Light spillover (light trespass) onto adjacent properties

shall not exceed 0.1 foot-candles measured at the property line per the City of Aurora Code.

2. Lighting sources shall be white, color-correct types such as Halogen, metal halide, or light emitting diode (LED). Light types of limited spectral emission, such as low-pressure sodium or mercury vapor lights, are not allowed. Colored light bulbs shall be used only on a temporary basis as part of a holiday lighting/decorations and/or special event recognition and of short-term duration (maximum 30 days).
3. **Hours of operation:** Builder-installed exterior front lights are permitted to be illuminated between dusk and dawn for security providing they do not exceed the light spillover standard stated above in point 1.
4. **Motion Sensor Lights:** Lights on a motion sensor should be pointed downward and be on for no more than 5 minutes. The motion sensor range should be directed to not extend beyond the home's property line/s to avoid being triggered by passing vehicles.
5. **Landscaping Lights:** Landscape light hours are from dusk until midnight, except lights that are solar powered and cannot be placed on a timer are excluded from this time limitation. All lights shall not exceed the light spillover standard stated above. Homeowners that install landscape "spotlights" to highlight their trees and shrubs need to take great care to ensure that these lights are pointing at their trees and shrubs and not their neighbors.
6. Walkway lighting must be directed to the ground and shall not exceed 24" in height.
7. String lights/patio décor lighting must be approved by the DRC on a case-by-case basis.
8. Holiday Lights: Holiday lighting shall not be installed more than 60 days prior to the holiday and shall be removed within 30 days following the holiday. However, such lights shall be turned on 30 days or less prior to the actual holiday. Holiday lights shall be turned off no later than midnight.
9. Permanently mounted architecture lights, such as "Jelly fish" lights, must be approved by the DRC. Such lights shall require a "hidden" professional installation with little or no exposed wiring and no wiring glued/stapled onto eaves and fascia. Lights shall be front-only (or street-facing for corner/end lots) and maximize the distance to neighbors. Lights shall face away from neighboring homes and greenbelts/natural areas. Flashing and quick color changes are not permitted. Repeated color changes must be gradual. Lights shall be turned off at midnight.

Overall, lighting and lighting fixtures shall adhere to the Arapahoe County Planned Development Standards, The City of Aurora Light Standards as stated in the City of Aurora Unified Development Ordinance, and as provided in this section.