

Lighting Ordinance FAQs-Residential

Q: I have a light attached to my house and is shining onto my driveway or yard. Am I in violation?

A: You are not in violation as long as it does not cause light levels at the edge of your property to exceed 0.5 foot candles.

Q: When do I have to bring my lighting into conformance with this code?

A: There is a three year wavier of compliance for all lighting that is non-conforming. The city encourages property owners to replace existing lighting in a timely manner but recognizes it may not be practical in all circumstances. Lighting that exceeds 0.5 foot candles at the property line should be replaced as soon as possible.



Q: Does this ordinance restrict garage lighting?

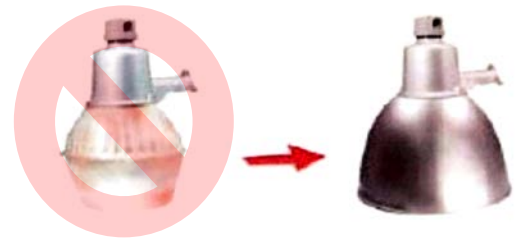
A: No. Lighting in a garage is exempt from this ordinance.

Q: Does this ordinance restrict solar landscape lights?

A: No. Solar landscape lights are exempt from this ordinance, as they are generally much dimmer than their non-solar counterparts.

Q: I have an outdoor barn yard light style fixture. Does the ordinance require it to be fully-shielded? If yes, by when?

A: These lights are not dark-sky compliant. The intent is that these fixtures be modified or replaced over time within **three** years.



Source: Sky and Telescope

Q: I have something on my property I want to be used for recreation (basketball court, hockey rink, driveway, back yard, etc.) Will lighting it at night violate the ordinance?

A: No. However, lights for recreation shall be fully-shielded, not cause light levels at the edge of your property to exceed 0.5 foot candles, and:

- If a fully-shielded fixture, be no brighter than 630 lumens for LZ0 areas and 1,260 lumens for LZ1 and LZ2 areas.
- If a shielded directional flood light, be no brighter than 750 lumens in LZ0 areas, 1,125 lumens in LZ1 areas, and 1,500 lumens in LZ2 areas, unless it has a motion sensor.

Lighting for recreation may conform to the standards referred to in the International Residential Code, the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), the International Dark Sky Association (IDA), or other acceptable standard in addition to or instead of the standards mentioned in this ordinance. IES: <https://www.ies.org/> IDA: <http://darksky.org/>

Q: I need to use a light for just a few minutes, and it is after 11 PM. Will doing so violate the ordinance?

A: No, you are not violating the ordinance in this case.

Q: May I install an unshielded or partly shielded fixture on my property?

A: Yes, as long as it complies with the following:

- In LZ0 areas, be under a canopy or porch by the main entry and not exceed 600 lumens.
- In LZ1 areas, be under a canopy or porch and not exceed 600 lumens if by the main entry. If not by the main entry, it shall be no brighter than 375 lumens.
- In LZ2 areas, be no brighter than 900 lumens if by the main entry and 375 lumens if not by the main entry.

Q: May I install landscape lighting on my property?

A: Yes. However, unless deemed otherwise necessary for safety, landscape lighting shall be fully-shielded, not cause light levels at the edge of your property to exceed 0.5 foot candles, and be no brighter than 300 lumens for LZ0 areas, 600 lumens for LZ1 areas, and 900 lumens for LZ2 areas.

Q: May I install a flood light on my property?

A: Yes. However, flood lights shall be shielded and not cause light levels at the edge of your property to exceed 0.5 foot candles. Unless the light has a motion sensor, it must be no brighter than 750 lumens for LZ0 areas, 1,125 lumens for LZ1 areas, and 1,500 lumens for LZ2 areas.

Q: My neighbor's light is shining onto my property. Does that light violate the ordinance?

A: That light would violate the ordinance if it causes light levels at the edge of their property to exceed 0.5 foot candles.

Q: Will leaving a light switched on for a long time violate the ordinance?

A: Though the City of Greenfield encourages people to only use their lights when needed, leaving a light switched on for a long time will not violate the ordinance. Lighting reductions are NOT required for residential properties. However, motion sensing lights must dim or turn off within 10 minutes of detecting last motion unless located by the main entry.

Q: Would an outdoor event violate the ordinance?

A: No. Outdoor events are exempt from this ordinance. A special permit may be required for high intensity lighting, for example lighting used at construction sites.

EXAMPLES OF SOME COMMON LIGHTING FIXTURES

