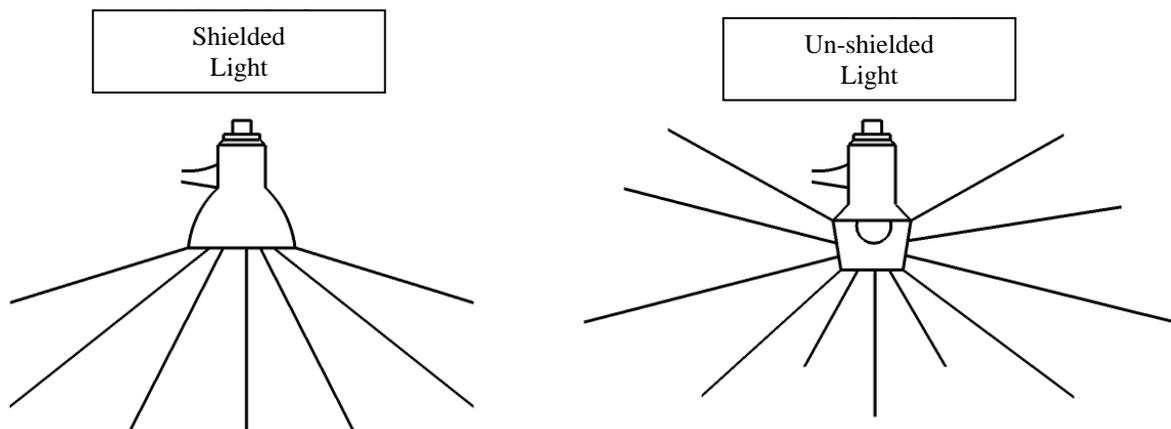


INFORMATION GUIDE FOR:

Outdoor Lighting

- **PURPOSE AND INTENT:**
 - Promote safety and security;
 - Help preserve the small town character;
 - Eliminate the escalation of nighttime light pollution;
 - Reduce glaring and offensive light sources;
 - Provide clear guidance to builders and developers;
 - Encourage the use of improved technologies for lighting;
 - Conserve energy; and,
 - Prevent inappropriate and poorly designed or installed outdoor lighting.
- **DEFINITIONS:**

Fully Shielded Light: Light fixtures shielded or constructed so that no light rays are directly emitted by the installed fixture at angles above the horizontal plane. The fixture must also be installed to effectively down direct light.

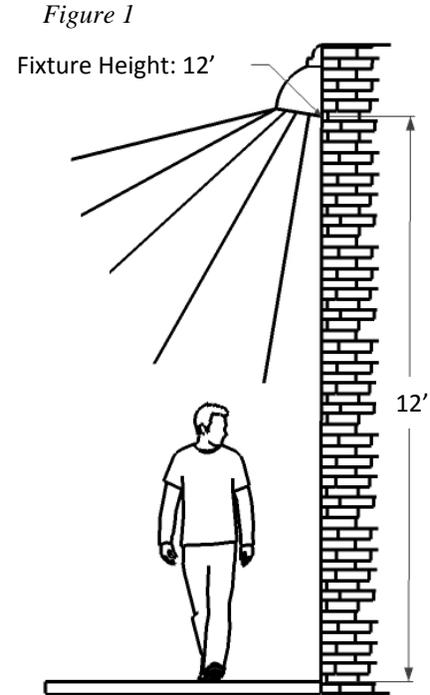


Foot-candles: A unit of illumination of a surface that is equal to one lumen per square foot. Foot candles shall be measured at a height of 3 ft. above finished grade.

Fixture Height: height of the fixture shall be the vertical distance from the ground directly below the centerline of the fixture to the lowest direct light emitting part of the fixture. See *Figure 1*.

Point Light Source: The exact place from which illumination is produced (i.e., a light bulb filament or discharge capsule).

Light Trespass: the shining of light produced by a light fixture beyond the boundaries of the property on which it is located.



- **LIGHTING PLANS:**

An outdoor lighting plan must be submitted in conjunction with applications for subdivision, planned unit development, development within any environmentally sensitive area, special review application, and building permit application for a commercial or multi-family building. The lighting plan shall include the following:

- The location and height above grade of light fixtures;
- The type (such as incandescent, halogen, high pressure sodium) and luminous intensity of each light source;
- The type of fixture (such as floodlight, full-cutoff, lantern, coach light, etc.);
- Estimates for site illumination resulting from the lighting, as measured in foot candles. This includes minimum, maximum and average illumination; and
- Other information deemed necessary by the Community Development Director to document compliance with the provisions of this Article.

- **NON-RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING STANDARDS:**

- Outdoor lighting used to illuminate parking spaces, driveways, maneuvering areas or buildings shall conform to the definition of “fully shielded light fixtures” and be designed, arranged and screened so that the point light source shall not be visible from adjoining lots or streets. **No portion of the bulb or direct lamp may be visible beyond a distance equal to or greater than twice the mounting height of the fixture.** See *Figure 2* below.
- Outdoor lighting shall be 12 ft. or less in height unless it meets one of the following criteria:
 - The lighting is fully shielded and the point light source is not visible
 - The lighting is otherwise approved in Section 26.575.150(K)
- Light sources that are not fully shielded shall not use a clear lens material to enclose the light bulb so as to minimize glare from that point light source.

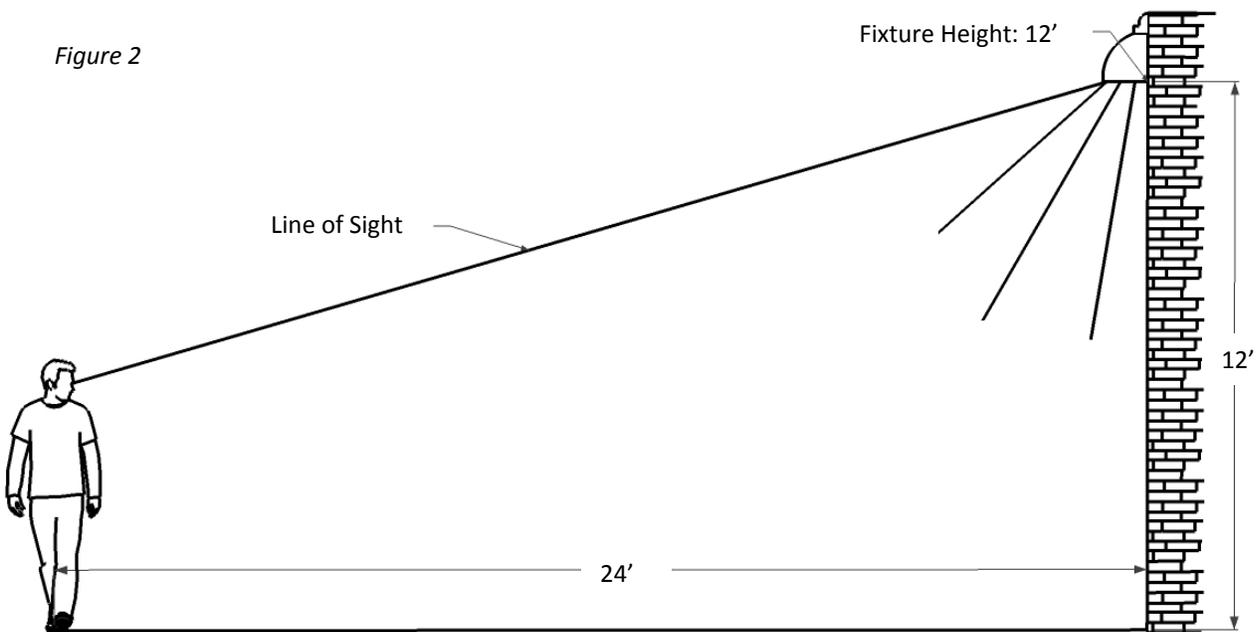
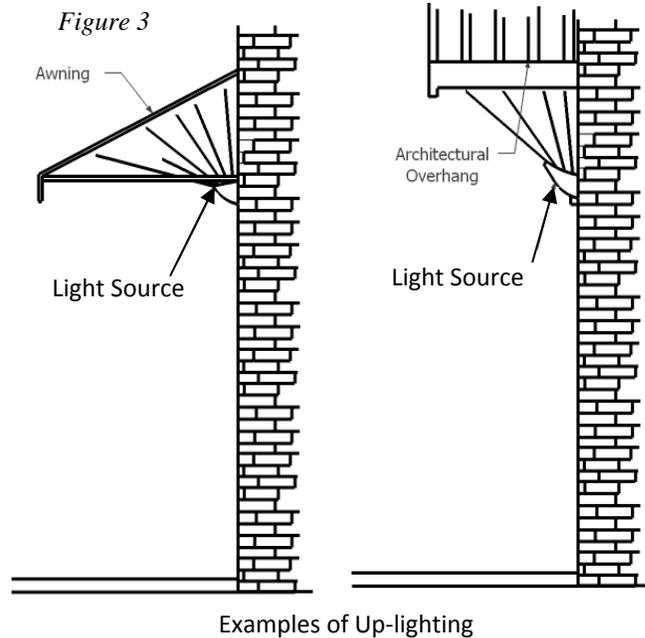


Figure 2 shows the minimum distance for which the point light source cannot be visible.

- High Intensity Discharge (HID) light sources are allowed with a maximum wattage of 175 high pressure sodium (HPS) and 175 watt metal halide.
- Spacing:
 - Security and parking lot light fixtures that are pole mounted shall be no less than 75 ft. apart.
 - Fully shielded decorative features are allowed to maintain a 50 ft. fixture spacing.
 - Wall mounted fixture spacing for security lighting shall be no less than 50 ft. apart, measured horizontally.
 - Decorative fixtures directed back toward a building face shall be exempt from this spacing requirement when shielded and not exceeding 50 watts.
 - Decorative fixtures that are not shielded shall maintain a minimum spacing of 25 ft. and shall not exceed 50 watts.
 - Where security lighting is a combination of pole and wall mounted fixtures, minimum spacing shall be 75 ft. and a max. of 150 ft.
- Pole mounted fixtures shall be limited to two light sources per pole.
- Mixed use areas that include residential occupancies shall comply with the residential standards on those floors or areas that are more than 50% residential based on square footage.
- Up-lighting:
 - Only when projected towards awnings overhanging architectural or landscape elements (See *Figure 3* below).
 - Spacing should be no less than one fixture per 150 sq. ft. of area (measured horizontally) and a total lamp wattage of 35 watts.
 - Up-lighting of flags is permitted with a limit of two fixtures per pole. Fixtures must be shielded so that point light source is not visible outside of a 15 ft. radius.
- Outdoor vending (i.e. gas stations) requires approval for lighting. Must not exceed 20 candles under the canopy.

- **RESIDENTIAL LIGHTING STANDARDS:**

- Outdoor lighting shall be 12 ft. or less in height unless it meets the following:
 - Used to illuminate above grade decks or balconies, is fully shielded, and the point light source is not visible beyond the property boundaries.
 - The lighting is fully recessed into a roof soffit, fully shielded, and it not visible beyond the Property boundaries.
 - The lighting is otherwise approved in Section 27.575.150(K)
- Outdoor lighting with HID light sources in excess of 35 watts shall be prohibited. Also, incandescent light sources including halogen shall not exceed 50 watts.
- All light sources that are not fully shielded shall use material other than a clear lens material to enclose the light source. The point light source shall not be visible from adjacent properties.
- Landscape lighting is limited to 35 watts per fixture per 150 sq. ft. of landscaped area (measured horizontally)
- Security Lights must abide by the following:
 - Point light source not visible from adjoining lots or streets
 - Flood lights must be controlled by a switch or preferably a motion sensor activated on the owners property.
 - Timer controlled flood lights are prohibited.
 - Photo-cell lights are allowed if:
 - Located at primary points of entrance or in critical common areas for commercial and multi-family properties
 - Located where light sources are fully-shielded by opaque material
 - The light source is fluorescent to eliminate excess electricity consumption.
 - Lights must be fully-shielded, downward directed, and screened from adjacent properties in a manner that limits light trespass to .1 of a foot-candle, measured at property line.
 - Light intensity shall not exceed 10 foot-candle
 - No light fixture shall be greater than 12 feet in height, unless:
 - Building or Tree mounted, fully shielded, downward directed and using a light of 50 (building) or 25 (Tree) watts or less



- **EXEMPT LIGHTING:**

Holiday Lighting:	Temporary in nature and which is illuminated from November 15 – March 1. Must not create dangerous glare on adjacent streets or properties.
Municipal Lighting:	When installed for the benefit of public health, safety and welfare (i.e., traffic control, street lights, construction lighting)
Temporary Lighting:	No longer than 14 days. Must submit a written request to Community Development to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Specific exemption(s); b. Type, use and purpose; c. Duration of time requested; d. Type of lamp and calculated lumens; e. Total wattage; f. Proposed location; g. Previous temporary exemptions, if any; h. Physical size of fixture and type of shielding; and i. Any other required information by Community Development.
Approved Historic Lighting Features:	Non-conforming lighting fixtures that are consistent with the character of the historic structure or district. Not to exceed 50 watts.
Decorative Lighting Elements:	I.e., Shades with perforated patterns and opaque diffusers. Not to exceed 50 watts.
Community Benefit:	If the requested lighting does not meet the Code, but demonstrates a community benefit, it may be exempt.

- **Prohibited Lighting:**

- No lights affixed to roof or under roof eave, except where requested by building code
- No lighting of facades when light is attached to ground, poles, or adjacent building.
- Blinking, flashing, moving, flickering, changing intensity, and changing color lights and internally illuminated signs are all prohibited.
- Mercury vapor and low-pressure sodium lighting due to poor color rendering properties
- Liner lighting
- Unshielded flood lights and timer controlled flood lights
- Lighting directed toward the Roaring Fork River and its tributaries
- No beacon or search lights
- Up-lighting is prohibited, except as otherwise specified in the Code
- No outdoor lighting that interferes with the safe movement of motor vehicles on public thoroughfares.
 - Any fixed light that produces direct light or glare that could disturb motorists.
 - Any light that may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device.

- **Procedure:**
 - Administrative Review. Lighting plans submitted in conjunction with applications for subdivision, planned unit development, development within any environmentally sensitive area, or special review application shall be reviewed by the Planning and Zoning Commission.
 - Lighting plans submitted as part of a building permit application for commercial or multi-family structure shall be reviewed administratively by the Community Development Department. The department has the authority to call on referral boards.
 - Appeals. Any appeals related to decision regarding outdoor lighting shall be made to the Board of Adjustment compliant with the procedures in the Appeals Section 26.316 of the Code

This is only a guide for Outdoor Lighting in the City of Aspen. The official and full regulations are in the Land Use Code.

See Section 26.575.150, *Outdoor Lighting*

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