



## What to Know:

Your home may be subject to the Coastal Wide Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) outdoor lighting standards that went into effect on September 9, 2022.

This brochure outlines the lighting requirements and standards for homes that are located adjacent to these sensitive resources. For purposes of this brochure, ESHA may be identified as native vegetated areas or natural features within the coastal zone.

To learn more about ESHA and their buffer zones and if the lighting guidelines apply to your residence, scan the QR code below or visit the County's website at:

<https://vcrma.org/divisions/planning/ventura-county-outdoor-lighting-restrictions>

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Here for  
More  
Info



### All Outdoor Lighting

When outdoor lighting is replaced by a homeowner, the new lighting is subject to the lighting code. The following summarizes the general ESHA lighting requirements\*:

- Fixtures must be fully-shielded, downward.
- **All essential lighting must have motion sensors + timers set to five minutes.**
- In driveways/private roads, the use of reflectors, light color pavement, new emerging luminescence options should replace any lighting.

Existing lighting must be replaced:

- When light spillover occurs past the building site.
- If the entry gate lighting does not have a motion sensor and 5 minute timer.

### Prohibited Outdoor Lighting

- **Residential recreational facilities**
- Permanent lights that flash, strobe, blink, rotate, fade, etc.
- Perimeter lot lighting.
- Gate lights w/out motion sensor + timer\*.
- Aesthetic up-lighting.
- Ultraviolet lighting.
- Permanent landscape lights\*.

### Exempt Outdoor Lighting

- Seasonal or festive lighting.
- String lighting under 2700 Kelvin\*.
- Fully-shielded, 60 lumens or less\*.
- Lighting in a swimming pool.

\* The inside pages of this brochure define the underlined words above and provide only general details of the lighting requirements. For more details, visit the County's webpage at: <https://vcrma.org/divisions/planning/outdoor-lighting-requirements>

# COASTAL WIDE OUTDOOR LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

## When Located Near Environmentally Sensitive Resources

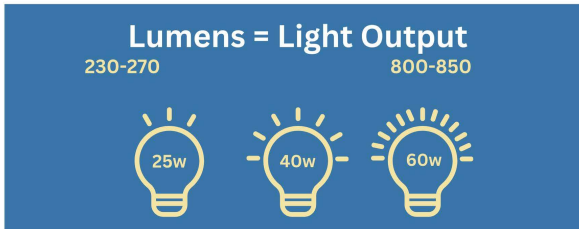


**COUNTY of VENTURA**  
Resource Management Agency

## Lighting Terminology

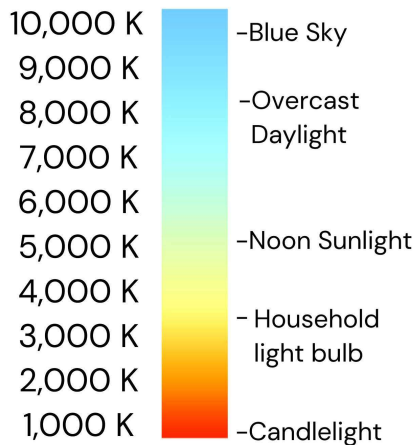
### Lumens

Unlike watts, which measure the amount of energy consumed, lumens are a unit of measure that quantifies the amount of light produced by a lamp. This provides a measurement for the brightness of a light. Generally, 850 lumens is equivalent to the amount of light produced by a 60-watt incandescent light bulb.



### What are Light Color Standards?

Kelvin (K) is a measure of a light's color temperature. While this is traditionally a measurement of heat it is also related to appearance, therefore it is used as a guide to colors. Color temperatures greater than 4,000 Kelvin are bluish white and are "cooler" colors. Lamps with color temperatures less than 3,000 Kelvin are yellowish and are "warm"



## Lighting Terminology

### What is Essential Lighting?

Outdoor lighting for security purposes are light fixtures **attached to** entry gates and building entries\* that are primarily intended to deter or detect intrusions or other unwanted activity. Safety lighting is for safe navigation along walkways between building entries, parking areas, and other structures. The two terms together are referred to as **essential lighting**.

### Dark Hours

- Dark hours are 10:00 p.m. to sunrise, or when people leave the area, whichever is the latest.
- All lighting systems must automatically shut off with a battery backup during daytime hours.

### Types of Required Lighting Shields



### Maximum Light Fixture Heights

Light fixtures must be mounted as low as possible for the needed purpose, but no higher than the following\*:

- Walkways/hardscaping/driveways: 2 ft
- Affixed to fence or 6 ft, whichever is less.
- Other freestanding fixtures: 20 ft.

### Maximum Color Temperature

- Security lights: 2700 K
- Security lights w/Camera: 3000 K\*
- All other lighting: 2700 K

## New/Replacement Lighting

### General Requirements

- No lighting may be relocated in ESHA.
- New or replacement lighting may not be relocated to areas when it results in light spillover on beaches/shoreline **and/or** outside building site\*.
- If lighting must be relocated or replaced in an ESHA buffer zone (~100 feet from ESHA), **it must be essential lighting and comply with code\***.
- All essential and security lights must be on motion sensors + timers and shut off **after 5 minutes**.
- Additional standards must be imposed if light glare and spillover occur in ESHA or buffer zones. See website for specific code language\*.



Look for lumens listed on packaging for lights

### Maximum Light Output

- The minimum output necessary for the intended purpose.
- Walkway lighting: 100 lumens
- Security lighting: 850 lumens\*
- Security lighting w/camera: 2600 lumens
- Other lighting: 850 lumens

\*See lighting requirement details at: <https://vcrma.org/divisions/planning/outdoor-lighting-requirements>