



All Outdoor Lighting

All existing outdoor lighting installed before September 9, 2022 that is not **prohibited**, or used for security purposes may remain in use until replaced, provided that it meets the following requirements*:

- Outdoor lighting must be down facing (greatest extent) and comply with dark hours (10:00 p.m. to sunrise)*.
- Security lights more than 850 lumens **or** when light spills over beyond the building site, the light **must** be replaced to code standards*.

Prohibited Outdoor Lighting

- Permanent lights that flash, strobe, blink, rotate, fade, etc.
- Perimeter lot lighting.
- Entry gate lights with no motion sensors + 10 min timer.
- Aesthetic up-lighting.
- Ultraviolet lighting.
- Permanent landscape lights*.

Exempt Outdoor Lighting

- Seasonal or festive lighting.
- Down facing/directional, fully-shielded lights, 60 lumens or less.
- String lighting under 2700 Kelvin*.
- Lighting in a swimming pool.

* The inside pages of this brochure define the underlined words above and provide general details on the requirements for homeowner replacement lighting. For more specific details on the lighting requirements, visit the webpage at:
<https://vcrma.org/divisions/planning/outdoor-lighting-requirements>

What to Know:

Your home is subject to the Santa Monica Mountains Dark Sky outdoor lighting restrictions that went into effect on September 9, 2022.

This brochure outlines the requirements for homes located in the Ventura County Santa Monica Mountains overlay zone with outdoor lighting installed before September 9, 2022.

Scan the QR code below or visit the website to learn more at:

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



Scan Here for More Info

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS DARK SKY LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS

Homeowners Guide
for Lighting Installed
Prior to September
2022



COUNTY of VENTURA
Resource Management Agency

Lighting Terminology

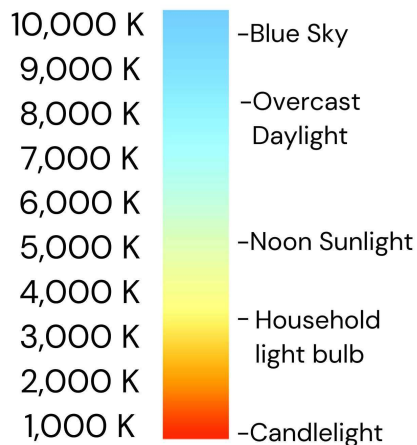
Lumens

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 used 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 used for people to navigate safely 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 from 10:00 p.m. to sunrise, or when people have left the area, whichever is the latest. Programmable photocells/controls with battery packs must be used to ensure that all lighting is automatically extinguished once sufficient daylight is available.

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: Ht of fence or 6 ft, whichever is less.
- Other freestanding fixtures: 20 ft.

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

New/Replacement Lighting

General Requirements

- All lights must be fully shielded and directed downward.
- All essential and security lighting must be on a motion sensor + timer programmed to shut off after 10 min.
- Security lighting may remain on through dark hours, unless the fixture output is more than 850 lumens **or** light spills beyond building site.
- Outdoor lighting outside the building site is limited to security lighting at entry gates, and low output lighting along driveways according to code*.
- See code for special standards for recreational facilities*.



Look for lumens listed on packaging for lights

Maximum Light Output

- Walkway lighting: 100 lumens
- Security lighting: 850 lumens
- Security lighting w/camera: 2600 lumens
- Other lighting: 850 lumens

Maximum Color Temperature

- Security lights: 2700 K
- Security lights w/ camera: 3000 K*
- Recreational facility: Illuminating Engineering Society of North America for the Class of Play (Sports Class I-IV)
- All other lighting: 2700 K