

RCHOA Outdoor Lighting Guidelines

(September 2026)

An awareness of outdoor lighting recognizes the natural beauty of our community and the protection of the night sky as a valuable, and increasingly rare, asset for all to enjoy. These guidelines are intended to provide safety, security and enjoyment of property. The intent is not to prohibit outdoor lighting but to encourage lighting that is thoughtfully designed and appropriately utilized.

These guidelines are primarily educational. ARC approval is only required when a proposed lighting installation is part of another project requiring ARC approval or when the installation may materially affect neighboring properties, streets, common areas or the golf course.

Responsible lighting promotes adequate illumination while minimizing:

- Light trespass occurring when lighting floods onto neighboring lots, interfering with enjoyment of property and sleep
- Interference with our treasured wildlife due to the use of lighting that disrupts the natural behavior of birds, pollinators, and other wildlife
- Skyglow, or the brightening of the night sky caused by upward-directed light, reducing the visibility of stars and natural darkness.
- Glare from improper lighting that can decrease safety

Guidelines

- Fully shielded fixtures should direct light downward and prevent the bulb or light source from being directly visible to neighboring properties.
- All fixtures should be designed, positioned or shielded to minimize light directed upward or to neighboring properties. Holiday and temporary

decorative lighting is exempt from this guideline, provided they do not create an unreasonable safety hazard or nuisance.

- Outdoor lighting should be only as bright as necessary for its intended safety, access, security or decorative purpose. Commercial-style security lighting is discouraged. Warm colored lighting is encouraged as it reduces glare and minimized the impact on wildlife. Warm, white LED bulbs in the 2700-3000K range are encouraged. Outdoor lighting should not create unreasonable glare or sustained light trespass onto neighboring homes or living areas.
- Decorative and general-area lighting should be turned off when not needed. Motion sensors, timers and other controls are encouraged for security lighting. Low-level lighting reasonably necessary for safety or access may remain in use.
- Nothing in these guidelines requires residents to replace existing outdoor lighting. These guidelines should be considered when fixtures are replaced or new lighting is installed.