

Introduction

In 2007, the Town passed an exterior lighting ordinance aimed at addressing light pollution and light trespass. The ordinance provided residents and businesses with a 17-year preparation period before the compliance deadline, set for July 1, 2025.

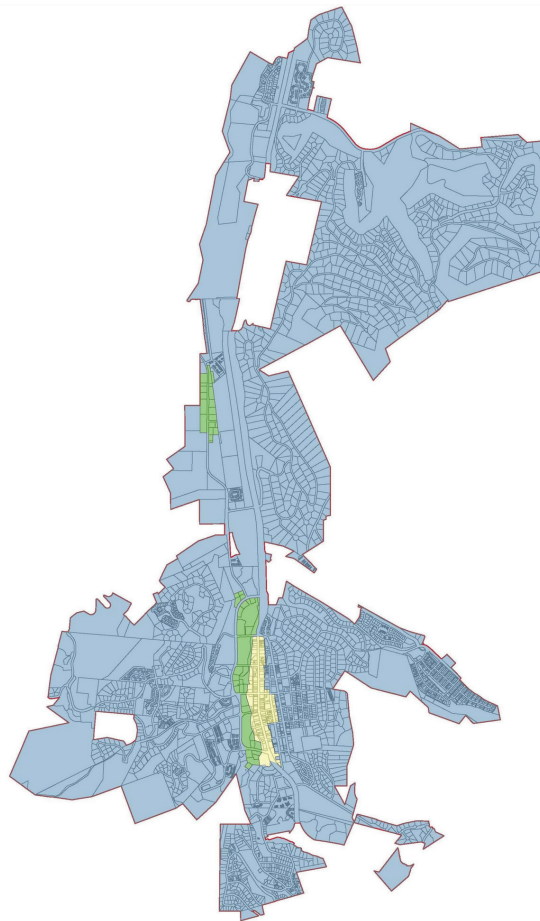
Why Do Dark Skies Matter?

Light pollution extends beyond obscuring our view of the stars; it disrupts the natural behaviors of wildlife, affecting migration and feeding patterns, and can even be fatal. It also hinders plant-pollinator interactions by altering the circadian rhythms of both plants and their pollinators. Furthermore, dark skies are not only essential for stargazing but also contribute to human health by aligning with our natural sleep cycles, which artificial light can disrupt.



Light polluted sky

Dark sky



■ Zone 1 ■ Zone 2 ■ Zone 3

Questions?
Want to make sure your fixture complies?

Contact Information
Community Development Department
Town Hall, 150 Ski Hill Road

Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs: 8am - 5pm
Friday: 8am - 12pm

Phone: 970-453-3160

Email:
websitecommdev@townofbreckenridge.com



Exterior Lighting Guide

Zone 1

For Compliance by July 1, 2025



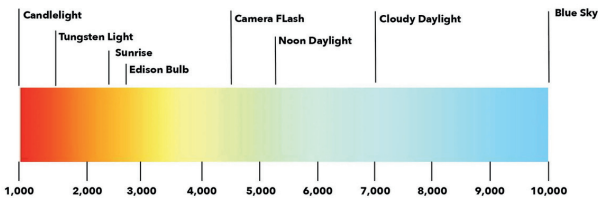
Guidelines for Fixtures

- **Fixture:** Use fully shielded and downcast opaque or semi-opaque fixtures
- **Color Temperature:** Must be at or below 3000 Kelvin (K)
- **Bulb types:**
 - LED: Up to 950 lumens
 - Fluorescent: ENERGY STAR rated, up to 15 watts
 - Incandescent: Up to 60 watts (for building or signage)
 - Others: ENERGY STAR rated, up to 950 lumens

Unshielded vs. Fully Shielded



Color Temperature Scale (K)



Learn More



For more information scan the QR code.

Noncompliant Fixtures



Compliant Fixtures



Frequently Asked Questions

Can I have bistro lights?

- Bistro lighting is allowed in exterior food and beverage areas from May 1 to October 31 annually. They must be shielded and downcast and the bulbs must be white or clear. For all residential uses, bistro lights are allowed to cover up to 150 square feet over a deck or patio.

What are the rules about decorative lights?

- Decorative lighting (e.g. holiday lights) is allowed from November 1 through April 1 of the following year. Decorative lighting can have bulbs up to three inches in length, used to outline a building along trim lines, eaves, windows, railings, or used in trees. This type of lighting cannot cover entire surfaces like walls or roofs.

Is there a limit on the number of fixtures I can have?

- There are only fixture limits for new construction. Existing buildings aren't required to add or remove any lights.

Can someone check the fixtures I intend to buy to make sure they're compliant?

- Yes, please contact us with your intended fixtures so that we can ensure compliance.

Can someone visit my property to tell me which fixtures need to change and which can stay?

- Yes, please contact us to schedule a site visit so that we can inform you of what is in compliance.