

**City of Sisters**  
**Dark Skies Standards**

**2.15.2400 Dark Skies Standards**

A. Requirements for installation. Except as exempted by provisions of this ordinance, as of the date of adoption, the installation of outdoor lighting fixtures shall be subject to the provisions of this ordinance and with the provisions of the applicable building Code and electrical Code, and with the Sign Chapter [3.4](#).

B. Shielding. All nonexempt outdoor lighting fixtures shall have light directed luminaires or shielding so as to prevent direct light from the fixture shining beyond the property limits where the fixture is installed. This means that a person standing at the adjacent property line would not see the light emitting source. Shielding by design or external application directs light downward and limits direct line-of-sight of a fixture's lamp to the property upon which the fixture is installed and light directed upward is prohibited.

C. Permitted.

1. Maximum Lamp Wattage and Required Luminaire or Lamp Shielding:

All lighting installations shall be designed and installed to be fully shielded (full cutoff), except as in exceptions below, and shall have a maximum lamp wattage of 250 watts High Intensity Discharge (HID) or lumen equivalent for commercial lighting and 100 watts incandescent, and 26 watts compact fluorescent lighting or lumen equivalent for residential lighting (or approximately 1,600 lumens).

2. Landscape and Deck lighting. Low voltage landscape lighting, but such lighting shall be shielded in such a way as to eliminate glare and light trespass. Luminaries shall be mounted in or at grade (but not more than 3 feet above grade) and shall be used solely for landscape rather than any area lighting.

D. Prohibitions.

1. Laser Source Light. The use of laser source light or any similar high intensity light when projected beyond property lines is prohibited.

2. Searchlights. The operation of searchlights for purposes other than public safety or emergencies is prohibited.

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E. Exemptions.

1. Existing.

A. Outdoor light fixtures lawfully installed prior to and operable prior on the effective date of the requirements codified in this ordinance (May 13, 2010) are exempt from all such requirements except as follows:

1. All replacement of outdoor lighting fixtures, as of the date of adoption, shall be subject to the provision of this ordinance.

2. Until a date five years after the date of the adoption of this ordinance.

2. Fossil Fuel Light. All outdoor light fixtures producing light directly by the combustion of natural gas or other fossil fuels are exempt from the requirements of this ordinance.

3. Airport operations lighting and aircraft navigational beacons as established by the Federal Aviation Administration are exempt from these provisions. All other airport outdoor lighting must conform with this ordinance.

4. Decorative Lighting

a. All non-residential districts multicolored lights of less than 15 watts used for holiday decorations for no more than the period between the day after Thanksgiving and the second week of January are exempt from the requirements of this ordinance.

b. Decorative low wattage lights in residential districts.

c. Low wattage clear or white decorative lights.

5. Special events that require the use of temporary outdoor lighting fixtures are exempt except that permanent installations at dedicated sites must conform to the requirements of this ordinance.

6. Lighting for U.S. flags properly displayed.

7. Temporary exemptions to the requirements of this ordinance for up to five consecutive days per calendar year.

8. Construction lighting necessary for an allowed use are exempt except that permanent installations at dedicated sites must conform to the requirements of this ordinance.

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9. Individual light fixtures with lamps of less than 40 watts or lumen equivalent.
  
10. Athletic field lighting; steps should be taken to minimize glare and light trespass, and utilize sensible curfews. Light directed upward is prohibited.