

Outdoor Lighting Regulations

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**OUTDOOR
LIGHTING
REGULATIONS**
San Bernardino County



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The Light Trespass Ordinance, adopted December 7, 2021 updates definitions and outdoor lighting regulations by region, focusing on prevention of light trespass onto neighboring properties and protection of dark night skies in the Mountain and Desert Regions.

Valley Region:

The standard is a maximum of 0.5-foot candle measured at the property line of any adjacent residential property.

Mountain and Desert Region:

A stricter standard of 0.1-foot candle for light trespass has been established in the mountain and desert regions. Additional requirements to protect dark night skies are also included for mountain and desert properties.

Exemptions include:

Lighting to illuminate streets, building addresses, permitted signs, outdoor work areas, temporary lighting for construction activities, emergencies, lighting for permitted outdoor events such as sports, lighting required for aviation safety, and holiday light displays.

Light Shielding:

Outdoor fixtures are required to be shielded to direct light downward to prevent light trespass and light pollution.

Dark Sky Curfew (Mountain and Desert Region):

Outdoor lighting is required to be extinguished by 11p.m., at the close of business, or when people are no longer present in the lit area, whichever is later. Exceptions to the curfew are provided for:

- Lights illuminating entry and exit points of structures, parking areas or driveways.
- Lights activated by motion sensors that extinguish after no more than five minutes.

Residential String Lights (Mountain and Desert Region):

String lights are permitted, provided that they do not exceed 3,000 Kelvin (a scale used to describe light “temperature”), no individual lamp exceeds 40 lumens (a measure of brightness), and the totality of the string lights does not exceed 4,000 lumens.

Compliance Timeline:

Any modifications or replacement of outdoor fixtures required to comply with the ordinance will have a grace period until July 7, 2023 for commercial and industrial properties and until January 7, 2024 for all other land uses from the effective date of this ordinance (1/7/2022).

