



7-minute Abs for Good Neighbor Lighting



A Practical Guide to Community-Friendly
Outdoor Lighting

Good Neighbor Lighting at a Glance:

Nuisance lighting is usually inadvertent, but when we get outdoor lighting wrong, our neighbors pay the price. These 3 principles address about 90 percent of common outdoor lighting mistakes with a minimum of fuss, helping you maintain your “Awesome Neighbor” status:

1. **Don't Forget Kelvin!** - Select lights with a color temperature of 3,000 Kelvin or less.
2. **Cover Your Glass** - Eliminate light trespass with proper shielding and lightbulb/lens type.
3. **Get Rid of “Just There” Lighting** - Use light only where it effectively serves an identifiable purpose.

I. Don't Forget Kelvin!



“Kelvin!”

Kelvin (K) is the metric used to indicate the color “temperature” of lightbulbs and fixtures. Color temperature plays a key role in visual comfort, sleep quality, curb appeal, and environmental impact. Warm temperature lighting (3,000 K or ideally lower) is preferable at night.

Lighting in excess of 4,000 K mimics daylight, suppressing natural melatonin production, confusing wildlife, attracting insects, and casting an unflattering, hospital tile-white glow on people and property. It also scatters further from its source than warm-colored lights, blotting out our view of the stars.

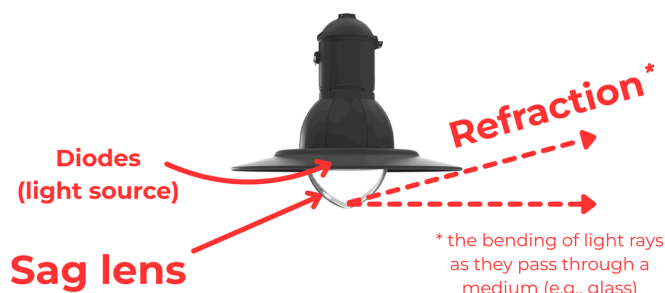
You can find Kelvin ratings in spec sheets and on lightbulb packaging.

2,400K - 3,000K lighting is almost always enough to satisfy functional and security needs. It's also more attractive.

2. Cover Your Glass

Glass shouldn't be visible when viewing a light fixture from a horizontal angle. Even if a light fixture is "shielded," if the bulb or lens (such as a "sag lens," per the example below) is visible below the shield, it will refract light beyond where it is useful or desirable.

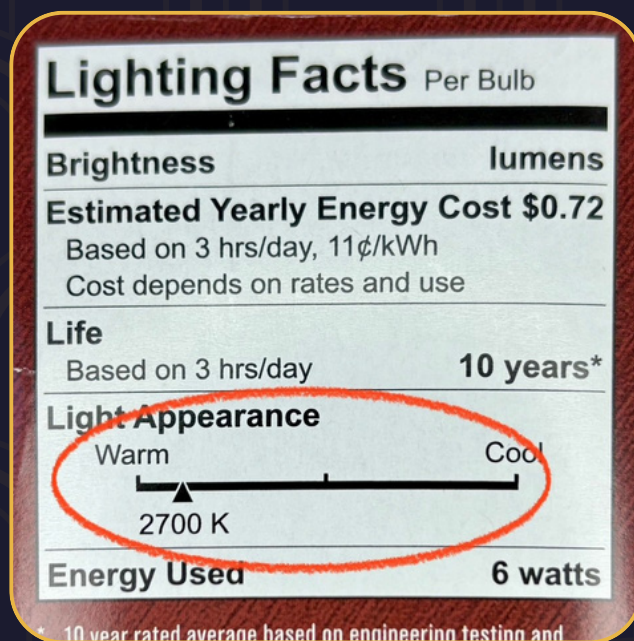
Here's why light is shining into your bedroom window



Proper shielding and lens design eliminate most forms of light trespass.

This guide is not comprehensive, but it both simplifies and addresses some gaps in public awareness.

For a more thorough treatment of outdoor lighting practices, check out DarkSky International's *Five Principles for Outdoor Lighting*.



3. Get rid of "just there" lighting

Wherever you see an outdoor light, ask, "What is the purpose of that light?" It will drive you insane, because you'll notice that many lights are just ... there.

"There" might be an empty parking lot, the lawn outside of your hotel bedroom, an empty loading dock, or the side of a building above a dumpster (which kind of seems like an invitation to dumpster dive). It's the mid-block streetlight shining into your bedroom window. "Just there" lighting shines into your eyes at crosswalks, casts dark shadows over sidewalks, and lights up empty fields. Get rid of "just there" lighting.

DarkSky International's *Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting*:

