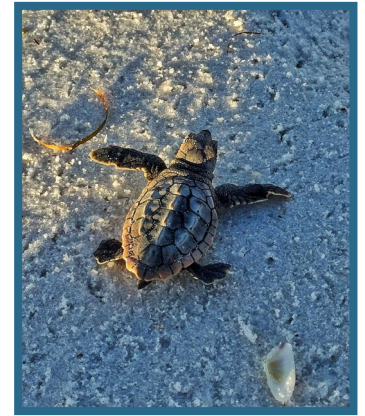


# Barrier Island Lighting Ordinance FAQ

## Why do we need a lighting ordinance on the barrier islands?

On a natural, undeveloped coast, the moon and stars reflect off the water, creating a bright horizon, while the beach and dune remain dark. Sea turtles use this contrast to find the Gulf of Mexico, moving away from the darker beach and towards the brighter water. But bright, artificial lights can disorient turtles, leading them away from the water and towards houses, roads, and parking lots. Lost turtles may never find the Gulf again, becoming injured, dehydrated, or killed.



While there is NO substitute for a naturally dark beach, “wildlife-friendly lighting” as required by the ordinance helps reduce the impact of artificial lighting on sea turtles and other coastal wildlife.

## How do I know if my property has non-wildlife friendly lighting?

- Turn on all your exterior lights and any interiors with a beach-facing window or door.
- Walk out to the beach after dark and note which lights are clearly visible.
- Include any light where you can see the light source (bulb) directly or the glow from the light.

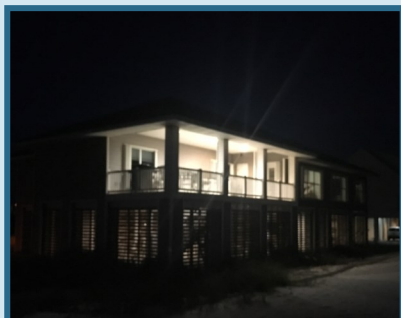
This is important for non-gulf front homes as well. Taller construction may be visible from several streets away, especially if winter storms or hurricanes have impacted the primary dune. And while individual lights may be shielded by other homes or natural features, the glow from them may still be visible.



### Not Wildlife Friendly:

- × Visible light sources (bulbs)
- × White light
- × Visible from the beach

Bulbs are clearly visible causing bright glares and broadcasting light up into the night sky.



### Not Wildlife Friendly:

- × White light
- × Visible from the beach

Even though the bulbs are recessed and hidden from direct view (left) they cause a white glow, which is clearly visible from the beach (right).

For more information visit [www.myescambia.com/seaturtles](http://www.myescambia.com/seaturtles). Still unsure? Contact Samantha Bolduc at (850) 595-3460 or [smbolduc@myescambia.com](mailto:smbolduc@myescambia.com) to request a site visit.



# Barrier Island Lighting Ordinance FAQ

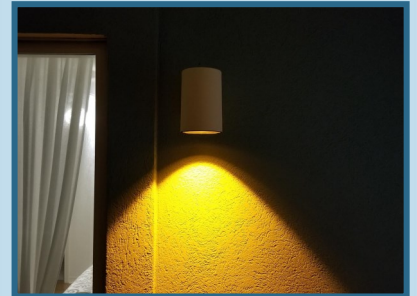
## What are the wildlife-friendly requirements?

For existing properties, each retrofit will look different, based on the style and age of fixtures, and location of the home. But in general, wildlife-friendly lighting follows three simple principles:

- **Keep it Long (Wavelength): amber or red colored bulbs.**  
Sea turtles and other wildlife don't see long wavelength light very well, which makes them a better choice over white bulbs which broadcast a full spectrum of light.
- **Keep it Low: low wattage and low mounting height.**  
A 6W LED bulb is equivalent to a 60W incandescent, so when replacing bulbs, go low! Placing fixtures lower to the ground also keeps light where it's needed, instead of scattering it in the air.
- **Keep it Shielded: use fixtures with "full cut-off" features that focus light down.**  
Look for fixtures that have the bulb recessed within the fixture that will keep the light source (bulb) from being visible. Fixtures may come with additional shields for fixtures on higher floors.



Amber-colored, low wattage bulbs stops excess light from shing into the dunes (above).



This full cut-off canister fixture only allows light to shine down. This focuses the light on the ground to provide safe access for the doorway to the left (above).

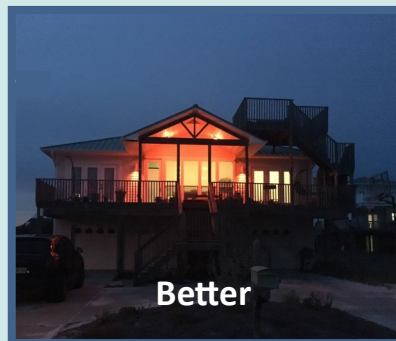
## For interior lights:

- Consider adding additional tint to windows and doors to prevent light trespass.
- Purchase blackout blinds, curtains or shutters for beach-facing windows and doors.
- Include materials to remind guests/renters to shut blinds and curtain after dark.

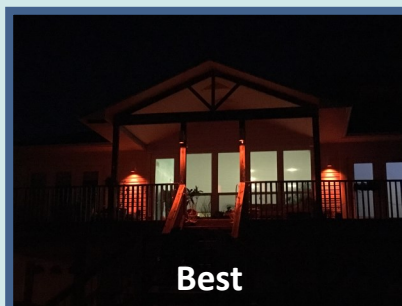
## Wildlife Friendly

- ✓ Fully Shielded
- ✓ Full cut-off
- ✓ Amber light

The two pictures to the right show the same property before and after a retrofit. Though amber in color, the ceiling mounted lights broadcast light over a broad surface (top).



The new canister lights (bottom) place light on the stairs where it is needed most. The ceiling lights were disabled, with the bulbs removed, so they cannot be turned on by accident.



## Wildlife Friendly

- ✓ Shielded
- ✓ Full cut-off
- ✓ Amber light
- ✓ Mounted Low

The lights to the right have been integrated into the railing, providing light along the ground where it's needed most. The lights face away from the beach and are shielded by the railing posts, keeping the light source hidden from direct view.



## Still unsure about the best solution for your property?

Contact Samantha Bolduc at (850) 595-3460 or [smbolduc@myescambia.com](mailto:smbolduc@myescambia.com) to schedule a free consultation.

