



# Lighting Requirements

Article 7-1600 of the *Boulder County Land Use Code* describes the requirements for exterior lighting that are applicable for projects undergoing Site Plan Review or other County review processes.

Please note that the lighting requirements in the Niwot Rural Community District (NRCD) or as adopted through specific Special Use approvals may be more restrictive. If your property is located in the NRCD or is governed by a Special Use approval, please refer to the appropriate development plans.

Please be aware that limitations may be placed on the amount of exterior lighting, both in terms of wattage and number of fixtures, allowed for projects undergoing Site Plan Review or any other county review process.

## Outdoor Lighting

Any outdoor light used for the illumination of parking areas, loading areas, recreation areas, or for any private or public purpose, shall be arranged in a manner to meet the following conditions:

- Lights shall be fully shielded and downlit;
- Neither the direct or reflected light from any light source may create a traffic hazard to operators of motor vehicles on public roads, and no colored lights may be used in a way as to be confused or construed as traffic control devices;
- No blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights, or other illuminated device which has a change in light intensity, brightness, or color, or no light which exceeds 12 feet in height may be permitted in any zoning district, except for temporary holiday displays, or as required by local, state, or federal regulations.

## Lighting Plans

When a lighting plan is required, submit a copy of your site plan indicating all locations on the exterior of the building where light fixtures will be located. Also, submit information such as cut sheets from the lighting manufacturer, that show the type of fixtures to be used.

## Site Lighting



Low light fixture illuminates walk. Vegetation is used to shield light from adjacent properties.

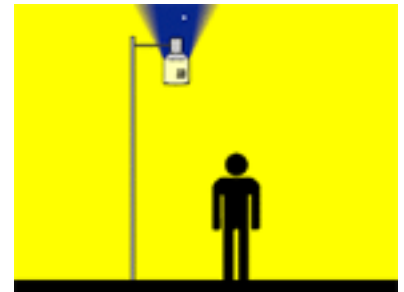
If you plan on illuminating site features such as walkways, driveways, or parking areas, consider using fixtures that are low to the ground instead of the typical pole-mounted light. These fixtures usually provide enough light for safety in these site areas while preventing light from shining onto other properties. In addition, the fixtures can be attractively integrated into the landscape.

## Good Lighting



- Cost Efficient
- Directs light down and to the sides as needed; light control
- Reduces glare; more even illumination
- Reduces light trespass onto neighboring property.
- Helps preserve the dark night sky.

## Bad Lighting



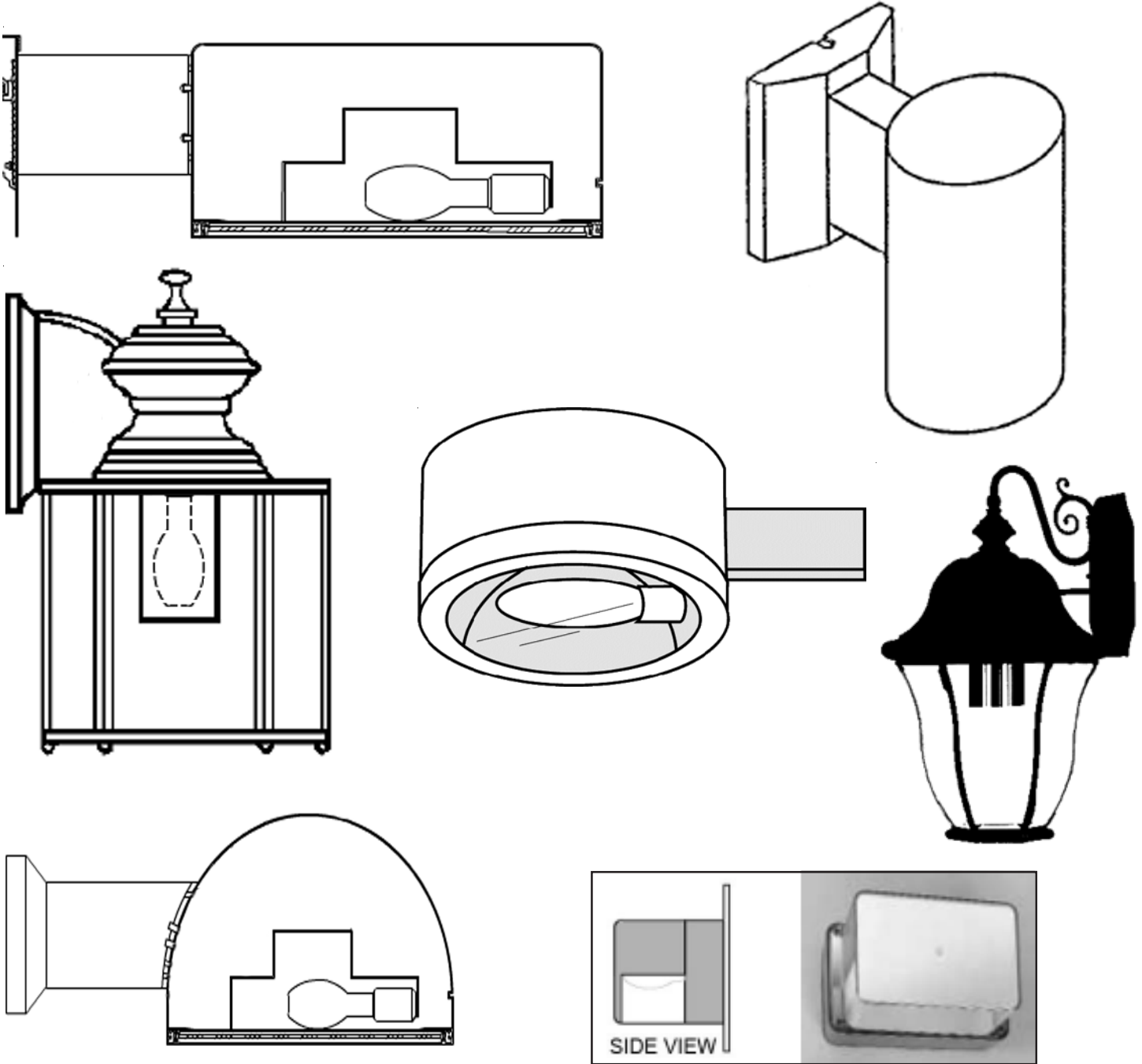
- Wastes energy into the sky.
- Glare, light trespass and harsh illumination.

Diagrams from University of Texas

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## Down Light Examples



Visit the website for more examples: [http://www.co.boulder.co.us/lu/help\\_center/lighting1.htm](http://www.co.boulder.co.us/lu/help_center/lighting1.htm)

## Informational Websites

**International Dark-Sky Association** - <http://www.darksky.org/fixtures/fixtures.html>

Note: Some fixtures that would not fulfill the county downlighting requirements are included on this site.

**The Glare Buster** - <http://www.theglarebuster.com/>