

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



Responsible outdoor lighting is

1 Useful

Use light only if it is needed

All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.



2 Targeted

Direct light so it falls only where it is needed

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



3 Low Level

Light should be no brighter than necessary

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



4 Controlled

Use light only when it is needed

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



5 Warm-colored

Use warmer color lights where possible

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.



After your assessment, please visit https://pagosasidewalkastronomers.org/home_lighting_assessment/ to tell us about your assessment or scan this qrcode:



Assess each outdoor light on your property using the 5 Principles above. Consider the intent and purpose of each light. Indicate each principle met. Describe improvements needed. Identical lights can be documented on the same row using, for example, "porch lights x 3".

Date of Assessment: ____ / ____ / ____

Fixture name Ex: front porch	Principles checklist					Action needed Ex: disable, add shield, replace luminary, replace bulb, add timer
	Useful	Targeted	Low-Level	Controlled	Warm-Colored	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>					
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Fixture name Ex: front porch	Principles checklist Which principles are met? Useful Targeted Low-Level Controlled Warm-Colored					Action needed Ex: disable, add shield, replace luminary, replace bulb, add timer
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	1	2	3	4	5	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	