



DID YOU KNOW?

BRIGHTER DOES *NOT* MEAN SAFER!

Outdoor lighting is supposed to enhance safety and security at night, but too much light is wasteful and even harmful.



“We can have very little confidence that improved lighting prevents crime”

— National Institute of Justice

Visibility Should be the Goal

Glare from bright, unshielded lights actually decreases safety. See how glare in the bottom left photo makes it hard to see the man at the gate? It shines into your eyes, constricting your pupils. This diminishes their ability to adapt to low-light conditions.

An evening at home with no shades on your lighting would be very uncomfortable. This is what happens at night when we walk or drive in areas with bright, unshielded lights. Motorists and pedestrians can be temporarily blinded by glare. The problem is more acute for older individuals.

Let's Have Real Security, Not Bad Lighting

There is no clear scientific evidence that increased outdoor lighting deters crime. It makes us feel safer, but *bad* outdoor lighting can actually *reduce* safety. A study by the city of Chicago actually found a correlation between increased crime and brightly lit alleyways.

In fact, glare from bright lights creates shadows where criminals can hide. Some crimes like vandalism and graffiti thrive on lighting. The car in the photo on the right was vandalized under a bright streetlight!

“Dark sky” does not mean “dark ground”! Smart lighting that directs light *down*, where it is most useful, creates a balance between safety and starlight.



Top photo by Jim Richardson
Middle photo by George Fleenor
Bottom photo by Paul Marchant



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