

# IS YOUR PROPERTY DARK SKY FRIENDLY?

An outdoor lighting guide by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)

## START HERE.

For every outdoor light on your property, ask the following questions.

### 2 Does the light reach beyond where it is needed?

#### Yes

Direct the light down, not up into the sky, and target your fixtures so that light does not spill beyond where it is needed. Can you change the mounting height or adjust how the light is aimed? If neither of those options work, you may need to replace the fixture.



**No**  
**Bull's-eye!**  
Your light is on target.

Remember, electricity can be a BUZZZZ-kill. Hire an electrician if you are not familiar with the work.

### 4 Can the light be dimmer and still perform the needed task?

**Yes, now that you mention it, the light is brighter than it needs to be**

Good catch! Replace the bulb or fixture with the lowest lighting level needed to perform the task. Use the lowest number of lumens needed.

**No, the light is just right**

OK. Move along to the next question.

## FIND DARK SKY FRIENDLY LIGHTING

IDA works with lighting manufacturers and home retail stores so that you can easily source IDA approved Dark Sky Friendly lighting.

Visit [www.darksky.org/homelighting](http://www.darksky.org/homelighting) to learn more.



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### 1 Does the light serve a clear and necessary purpose?

#### Yes

Light is useful for safe wayfinding and to help perform specific tasks. You've decided the light is needed, so let's make sure it's used responsibly.

#### No

Great work! You've found unnecessary light. Protect the night by disabling the fixture.



### 3 Is the light connected to active controls?

#### Huh?

All outdoor lighting should be connected to timers or motion sensors so that they are used only when they are needed. Avoid dusk to dawn photocell controls as they leave the light on whether it is needed or not.

**Oh! Yes, my light is controlled**

Perfect. Advance to the next question.

**No, my light is not controlled**

Easy fix! Motion sensing controls and timers can be inexpensive and usually take just minutes to install. Test the sensor to be sure it doesn't trigger inappropriately, and set a time limit so that the light is extinguished when it is not needed.



### 5 Is the light source warm in color?

#### How can I tell?

Most lightbulbs manufactured today have a Kelvin rating printed on the bulb. Low Kelvin ratings (3000 Kelvin or less) are considered warm and generally emit less harmful blue light than high Kelvin. For home lighting, we recommend 2700 Kelvin or less.

**Yes, the light is warm in color**

**You're a hero!**  
Limiting blue light at night minimizes harm to the night sky and wildlife.

**No, The light is cool white**

If you can access the bulb, replace it with a warm white or amber light. If the light source is part of the fixture, you may need to replace the unit.

