

Outdoor Lighting Ordinance Excerpt for Ann Arbor, MI

Code of Ordinances
City of Ann Arbor, Michigan
Chapter 55

Unified Development Code

Adopted: July 16, 2018
With Amendments Through: January 30, 2022

5.25 Outdoor Lighting⁷¹

5.25.1 Purpose

The purpose of this section is to:

- A. Minimize adverse and unsafe impacts of lighting such as Light Trespass, Glare, and Skyglow.
- B. Protect the natural environment from artificial light at night.
- C. Promote energy efficiency.
- D. Foster a safer environment that supports and/or enhances commerce and lawful nighttime activities.

⁷¹ Ordinance No. ORD-21-23, effective September 26, 2021.

5.25.2 Applicability

All lighting that causes exterior illumination after sunset and before sunrise shall be subject to the requirements of this section except for the following:

- A. Any temporary light installation on private property is permitted for a total of 90 consecutive days in one calendar year. Examples include seasonal decorative lighting and lighting for temporary public art installations, screenings, performances, and special events. Temporary lighting installations shall be extinguished between 12am and 6am.

Any temporary light installation in nonresidential zoning districts shall comply with Section 5.25.3.B.10.
- B. Lighting for flags.
- C. Any light installation determined by the Historic District Commission to contribute to the historic character of a property listed in a local or state historic district or on the National Register of Historic Places.

5.25.3 Exterior Lighting Specifications

A. Color Spectrum Management

- 1. All permanent nonresidential and multi-family lighting installations, with the exception of illuminated signs, shall have a minimum Color Rendering Index (CRI) of 70.
- 2. All permanent nonresidential and multi-family lighting installations, with the exception of illuminated signs, shall have a Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) of no greater than 3000 K.

B. Luminaire Design and Installation

- 1. Light Trespass
 - a. Light Trespass beyond the property line shall at no time exceed 0.1 Foot-Candles onto any Lot that is in a Residential Zoning District or the PL district, or in the public right-of-way.
 - b. In the D1 Downtown Core and D2 Downtown Interface districts, the total Illuminance from all sources at the property line shall not exceed eight Foot-Candles, except for under-canopy lighting.
 - c. In all other zoning districts, Light Trespass beyond the property line shall at no time exceed two Foot-Candles onto any property.
 - d. In D1 Downtown Core and D2 Downtown Interface districts, the Illuminance shall be measured facing up, at a distance three feet above the ground. In any other district, the Illuminance shall be measured facing the Luminaire and measured at any point within the receiving property, including at any height above grade at the property line.

2. No Luminaire in any district shall cause Glare onto any property in a Residential Zoning District or zoned PL Public Land, or onto the public right of way.
3. Where lighting targets primarily the ground or horizontal targets, including but not limited to parking areas, loading docks, recreational areas, and site entrances, Luminaires shall meet Fully Shielded criteria, so that no light will cause Light Trespass as specified in this section, or Glare.
4. Where lighting illuminates features on an above grade or vertical target, including but not limited to architectural features, signs, landscaping, fountains, and sculptures, Luminaires shall be Partially Shielded and shall be installed and aimed to minimize their output past the object being illuminated, skyward or otherwise. Such lighting shall not cause Light Trespass as specified in this section, or Glare.
5. If a Building façade is more than 10 feet from the property line, the maximum average Illuminance on the facade shall be 1 Foot-Candle on any property in a Residential Zoning District, and 3 Foot-Candles on any property in any other zoning district, as measured at a distance of 10 feet from the facade, provided that the Illuminance does not violate the Light Trespass limit specified above in paragraph 1. The measurement shall be made facing the facade. Facade illumination shall be provided from above, rather than below, and shall be shielded from Glare as specified above in paragraph 3. Facades in D1 and D2 districts, and facades situated less than 10 feet from a Building on the same parcel are exempt from this requirement. Signs painted on a façade shall also be exempt from this requirement except Section 5.24.4 D Sign Illumination shall apply.
6. Decorative Building Façade and Landscape Illumination
 - a. For properties in a Residential Zoning District, Illumination for Building facades and/or landscapes whose primary purpose is decorative is prohibited between 12:00 am and 6:00 am.
 - b. In all other districts, Illumination for Building facades and/or landscapes whose primary purpose is decorative is prohibited between 12:00 am and 6:00 am except during Business Hours. The lighting shall be controlled by an automated timer system.
7. Motion-activated lighting systems shall not be activated by movement beyond the property boundary.
8. Under-canopy lighting for applications such as gasoline service stations, hotel or theater marquees, or Drive Through Facilities shall be Fully Shielded. The average maintained horizontal Illumination in the area directly below the canopy shall not exceed 20 Foot-Candles, with no value exceeding 30 Foot-Candles.

9. Wall- or pole-mounted floodlights shall be aimed no higher than 45 degrees below horizontal, and they shall comply with shielding and Light Trespass limits as specified in paragraphs 1 and 2.
10. The following lighting systems are prohibited: Any dynamically changing lights, including strobe lights, or lights that are programmed to be flashing, blinking, or moving; except that lighting systems may dim or brighten in response to changes in ambient light as permitted in this Code.

C. Parking Lots

1. Parking Lots shall not exceed maximum Illuminances at all unobstructed points of 6 Foot-Candles at any time after sunset and before sunrise. Illuminances shall be measured facing upward, three feet above the Parking Lot surface.
2. Lighting for parking areas and vehicular and pedestrian traffic ways on sites that contain no residential uses shall be extinguished nightly beyond Business Hours. For after-hours site safety lighting, or uses with no Business Hours, lighting after sunset and before sunrise shall not be in excess of 2 Foot-Candles.

5.25.4 Indoor Lighting

Indoor lighting shall not be the source of exterior Light Trespass or Glare as specified in Section 5.25.3.B.1 and 5.25.3.B. 2 above.