

# Harrison County

# Zoning Administration

## Compatible Lighting Arrangements

This handout is designed to provide guidance and examples on how to comply with Harrison County's lighting standards. Section 809 of the Harrison County Zoning Ordinance establishes regulations for outdoor lighting. The code specifically states that "luminaries on all properties, in all zoning districts, shall be installed with the idea of being a "good neighbor", with attempts to keep unnecessary direct light from shining onto abutting properties or streets" (Sec. 809.01).

### Sensible Outdoor Lighting Practices

Sensible outdoor lighting provides adequate illumination without glare or sky glow, and makes the most efficient use of our energy resources.

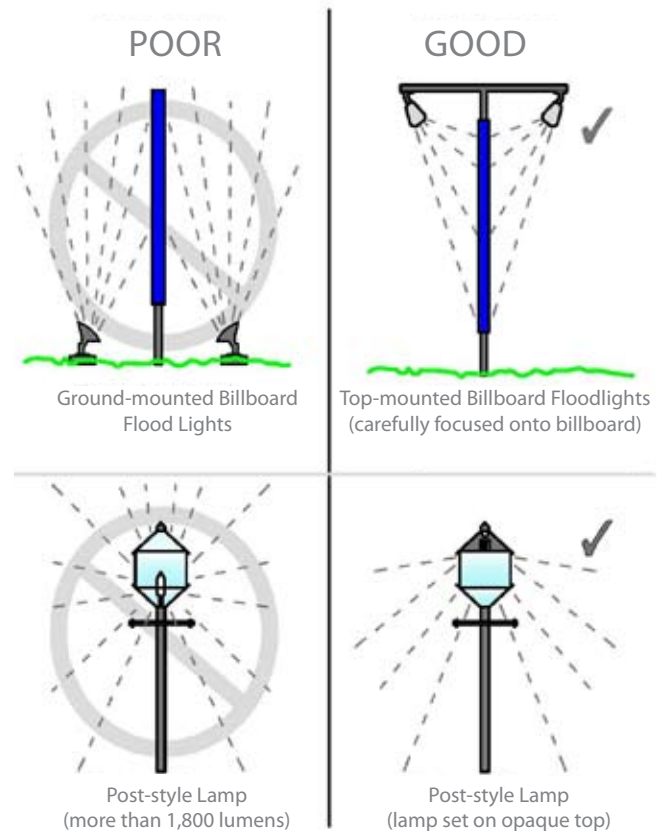
1. Provide adequate light for the intended task, but never over-light. Brighter is not always better, so try to choose lamps with the lowest level of illumination that will meet your needs. Examples of appropriate and inappropriate commercial lighting are shown to the right.

2. Use fully shielded lighting fixtures to minimize glare from the light-producing source. Fully shielded means: "A lighting fixture constructed in such a manner that all light emitted by the fixture, either directly from the lamp or a diffusing element, or indirectly by reflection or refraction from any part of the luminaire, is projected below the horizontal...".

3. Install lighting fixtures carefully to maximize their effectiveness on the target area and minimize their adverse impact beyond your property line. Proper position and aiming is important. Place fixtures uniformly to illuminate the area without creating bright "hot spots" with dark shadows in between.

4. Use properly installed and adjusted motion detectors to minimize the amount of time your lights are on and to provide better security against intruders. For lights on timers or manual switches, use energy efficient lamps with good light quality.

### Examples of Some Common Lighting Fixtures



Source: Pallavi Jha

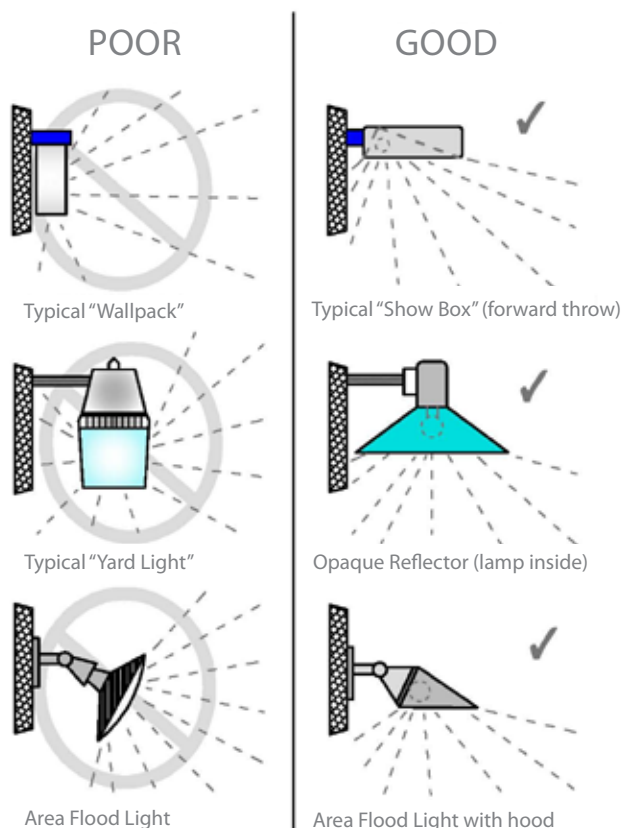
## Sensible Outdoor Lighting Principles

Good outdoor lighting is easy, if you follow two simple principles:

1. Illuminate only what you wish to see, and nothing else. Our eyes are able to see at night because of the light reflected from the surface of an object. Glare from a bulb, light falling on objects we don't intend to illuminate, or light shining across the landscape or into the sky, are simply a nuisance and a waste. Shielded fixtures direct light toward what we wish to see.

2. Use only as much illumination as you need. Excessively bright lighting wastes energy, hampers our ability to see at night, compromises our security and makes for a harsh and unattractive nighttime environment. Several well aimed low wattage fixtures usually do a better job than a single, high output lamp.

## Examples of Some Common Lighting Fixtures



Source: Pallavi Jha

## Floodlights and Spotlights

Section 809.02 of the Harrison County Zoning Ordinance states that "spotlights and floodlights shall be angled so that the center of the beam will strike the ground within said property line." Below is a recommendation for installing spotlights and/or floodlights.

### Vertical Aiming Recommendation

A single floodlight uses the two-thirds rule of thumb for vertical aiming. The fixture is aimed  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the distance across the area to be lighted and at least 30 degrees below horizontal. If the area to be lighted is 40 feet across, the recommended aiming point is 27 feet.

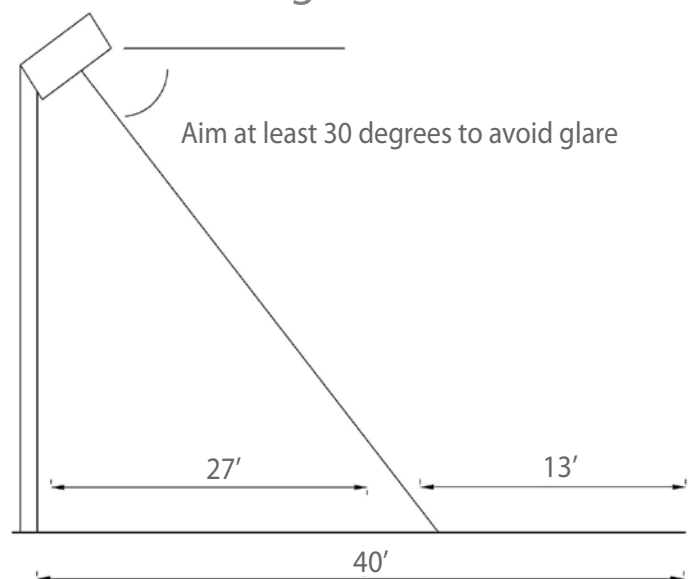
Aiming point =  $\frac{2}{3}$  across distance to be lighted

$\frac{2}{3}$  (40 ft.) = 27 ft. aiming point.

Additionally, to minimize glare, the recommended aiming point distance should never exceed twice the mounting height. If a pole is 20 feet high, the vertical aiming point should not exceed 40 feet out.

$2$  (20 ft. mounting height) = 40 ft.

## Recommended Spotlight or Floodlight Installation



Source: Pallavi Jha