

## Chapter 16.25 OUTDOOR LIGHTING ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY

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### 16.25.010 Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to provide regulations that preserve and enhance the view of the dark sky; promote health, safety, security, and productivity; and help protect natural resources. The provisions of this chapter are intended to control glare and light trespass. It is the intent of this chapter to provide standards for appropriate lighting practices and systems that will enable people to see essential detail in order that they may undertake their activities at night, facilitate safety and security of persons and property, and curtail the degradation of the nighttime visual environment. [This chapter is intent on reducing lighting conflicts between property owners, and preserving the naturally dark sky for the benefit of residents, visitors, wildlife, and the environment.](#)

**Commented [KG1]:** Sourced from Dark Sky International model ordinance.

### 16.25.020 Definitions.

The following terms have the following definitions for purposes of this chapter:

- A. *Accent lighting* means any luminaire that emphasizes a particular object or draws attention to a particular area for aesthetic purposes.
- B. [Candela means the unit of measure for luminous intensity.](#)
- C. [Color temperature means the color appearance of light emitted by a light source described using a nominal value stated in kelvins \(K\).](#)
- D. *Cut-off angle* (of a luminaire) means the angle, measured from the lowest point between a vertical line from the center of the lamp extended to the ground and the first line of sight at which the bare source is not visible.
- ~~E.~~ *Director* means the director of development services for the City of Medina.

**Commented [KG2]:** Sourced from Dark Sky International model ordinance.

**Commented [KG3]:** Sourced from Dark Sky International model ordinance.

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**DF.** *Fixture* (also called a "luminaire") means a complete lighting unit including the lamps, together with the parts required to distribute the light, to position and protect the lamps, and to connect the lamps to the power supply.

**EG.** *Foot-candle* means a measure of illuminance or a measure of how bright a light appears to the eye. One foot-candle is equal to one lumen per square foot. As an example, a typical 60-watt incandescent lamp (840 lumens) produces an illuminance of 0.1 foot-candles at a distance of about 25 feet.

**FH.** [IES \(Illuminating Engineering Society\) means an American National Standards Institute \(ANSI\)-recognized Standards Development Organization. ANSI/IES Recommended Practices are universally recognized as authoritative references for lighting applications.](#)

**Commented [KG4]:** Sourced from Dark Sky International model ordinance.

**I.** *Lamp* means the light-producing source installed in the socket portion of a luminaire.

**GJ.** [Light level means the maintained luminance or illuminance value.](#)

**Commented [KG5]:** Sourced from Dark Sky International model ordinance.

**K.** *Light pollution* means general sky glow caused by the scattering of artificial light in the atmosphere and resulting in decreased ability to see the natural night sky.

**HL.** *Light trespass* means any light emitted by an outdoor luminaire that shines directly beyond the property on which the luminaire is installed or indirectly shines beyond the property on which the luminaire is installed at a brightness (illuminance) that exceeds 0.1 foot-candles at the property line. This term includes light extending above a commercial building from a sky light.

**HM.** [Lumen means a unit of measure of the luminous flux of a light source.](#)

**Commented [KG6]:** Sourced from Dark Sky International model ordinance.

**N.** *Luminaire.* See definition for "fixture" (subsection D of this section).

**JO.** *Outdoor lighting fixture* means a luminaire outside of an enclosed building or structure or any luminaire directed such that it primarily illuminates outdoor areas.

**KP.** [Seasonal lighting means outdoor or site lighting that is portable, temporary, decorative, and used in connection with holidays and traditions. This includes, but is not limited to, string lighting, icicle lighting, and lighted inflatables.](#)

**Q.** [Security lighting means illumination used specifically to protect people, property, and infrastructure from criminal threat or malicious intent.](#)

**Commented [KG7]:** Sourced from Dark Sky International model ordinance.

**R.** *Shielding* means that no light rays are emitted by a fixture above the horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the fixture.

**LS.** *Spotlight* means any lamp that incorporates a reflector or a refractor to concentrate the light output into a directed beam in a particular direction.

**T.** [Temporary or periodic event means an occasion or activity that occurs for no more than 12 hours and relates to special events, festivals, community benefits, or personal celebrations.](#)

**16.25.030 Applicability.**

- A. All outdoor lighting fixtures installed on private and public property shall comply with this chapter. This chapter does not apply to interior lighting; provided, however, that if it is determined by the director that any interior lighting emitting light outside of the building or structure in which it is located creates a light trespass, the interior lighting shall be subject to the requirements of this chapter. Types of outdoor lighting to which this chapter applies include, but are not limited to, lighting for:
  - 1. Buildings and structures including, but not limited to, overhangs and canopies;
  - 2. Parking lot lighting;
  - 3. Security lighting;
  - 4. Landscape lighting;
  - 5. Driveway lighting;
  - 6. Patio or deck lighting;
  - 7. Lighting on docks and piers;
  - 8. Street lighting.
  - 9. [Outdoor lighting employed during construction or development activities, which shall comply with Section 16.44.040 of this code.](#)
- B. The city's departments of development services and public works shall administer and enforce this chapter.
- C. In the event of a conflict between the requirements of this chapter and any other requirement of the City of Medina Municipal Code, the more restrictive requirement shall apply.

**16.25.040 Exemptions.**

The following are exempt from the provisions of this chapter:

- A. Traffic control signals and devices;
- B. Street lights installed prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter; provided, that when a street light fixture becomes inoperable, any replacement street light fixture shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter;
- C. Temporary emergency lighting (i.e., fire, police, repair workers) or warning lights;
- D. Moving vehicle lights;
- E. Navigation lights (i.e., radio/television towers, docks, piers, buoys) or any other lights where state or federal statute or other provision of the City of Medina Municipal Code requires lighting that cannot comply with this chapter. In such situations, lighting shall be shielded to the maximum extent possible, and lumens shall be minimized to the maximum extent possible, while still complying with state or federal statute;

- F. Public recreational facilities;
- G. Seasonal ~~decorations lighting~~ does not have to be shielded; provided, that ~~they~~ it does not have a brightness of more than 0.1 foot-candles at the property line on which they are installed;
- H. Outdoor lighting approved by the director for temporary or periodic events (e.g., fairs, nighttime construction, events on private property), provided the lighting does not cause light trespass and has a rated correlated color temperature of 2,700K or less;-
- I. Downward cast security lighting, provided the lighting does not cause light trespass and has a rated correlated color temperature of 2,700K or less, unless the luminaire emits light only upon detected motion, in which case color temperature is not limited to 2,700K;
- J. Lighting installed within the vessel of a pool, spa, or hot tub, provided the lighting does not cause light trespass;
- K. Exterior stairway illumination, provided the illumination is not cast upward and is otherwise consistent with adopted building codes.

**16.25.050 General standards.**

A. The following general standards shall apply to all nonexempt outdoor lighting fixtures and accent lighting:

1. All light trespass is prohibited.
2. Outdoor lighting fixtures, other than ~~and~~ accent lighting, must be shielded and aimed downward, and shall be installed at the minimum height necessary. Examples of acceptable and unacceptable light pollution control shielding are shown in Figures 1 through 4 in section 16.25.090080. The shield must mask the direct horizontal surface of the light source. The light must be aimed to ensure that the illumination is only pointing downward onto the ground surface, with no escaping direct light permitted to contribute to light pollution by shining upward into the sky.
- ~~2-3.~~ Outdoor lighting shall have a rated correlated color temperature of 2,700K or less.
- ~~3-4.~~ All outdoor lighting fixtures and accent lighting shall be designed, installed, located and maintained such that light trespass is essentially nonexistent (see Figure 3 in section 16.25.080).
- ~~4-5.~~ Outdoor lighting fixtures and accent lighting shall not directly illuminate public waterways, unless it is a navigational light subject to state or federal regulations.
- ~~5-6.~~ Accent lighting shall be directed downward onto the illuminated object or area and not toward the sky or onto adjacent properties (see Figure 4 in section 16.25.080), except that lighting used to accent landscaping or

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driveways may be directed at an upward angle that does not exceed 45 degrees from a horizontal plane parallel to the ground, provided that the lighting does not cause light trespass and has a rated correlated color temperature of 2,700K or less. Direct light emissions of such accent lighting shall not be visible above the roof line or beyond the building, structure, or object edge.

7. Spotlighting on landscaping and foliage shall be limited to 150 watts incandescent (2,020 lumens output).

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### 16.25.060 Prohibited.

A. The following fixtures (luminaires) are prohibited:

1. Searchlights for any purpose other than temporary emergency lighting or as allowed by a special event license;
2. Laser lights or any similar high-intensity light for outdoor use or entertainment, when projected above the horizontal plane;
3. Quartz lamps;
4. Mercury vapor lamps.

4-5. Lighting at vacant residences, whether under construction or complete, except as authorized in Section 16.44.040 of this code.

B. No lighting shall be allowed on ~~private~~ sports courts or ~~private~~ accessory recreational facilities, whether the sport court or accessory recreational facility is public or private, except as allowed by MMC 16.25.040(J) in the City.

C. The city reserves the right to further restrict outdoor lighting including, but not limited to, pole height, and level of illumination, when it is deemed to be in the best public interest consistent with the purpose of this chapter.

### 16.25.070 Submittals.

All building permit applications which include the installation of outdoor lighting fixtures shall demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this chapter by indicating the location and type of lighting used on the site plan submitted with the building permit application. Building permit applications shall include an outdoor lighting plan with a lighting schedule that includes:

- A. Luminaire identifications (i.e., manufacturer, model number, correlated color temperature, type);
- B. Luminaire quantities;
- C. Correlated color temperature (Kelvin) for each fixture, and;
- D. Installation locations.

**Commented [KG8]:** This provision has been added to reflect feedback from the Planning Commission in January. It also seems to be in keeping with the general standard in (7) of this section; if spotlighting of landscaping is allowed, it reasons that the lighting could be directed upward to some nominal extent.

**Commented [SW9R8]:** Does the 45 degree come from the Dark Sky Model Ord?

**Commented [KG10R8]:** No, this was something that was crafted and presented to PC and asked of them to weigh in on whether it seemed an appropriate metric. It was devised with the understanding that spotlighting of landscaping and foliage is already permitted under subsection 7, so some allowed angle was known to be appropriate. We could entirely remove the 45 degree specificity and just allow for the landscaping to have accent lighting as long as it does not cause light trespass and has a 2,700 color temp. Thoughts on that approach?

**Commented [SW11]:** This will be seen by Council as an expansion of existing lighting allowed.

**Commented [KG12R11]:** Understood - allowance for public sport court lighting has been removed. I've added specificity that the prohibition applies to all public and private accessory recreational facilities, but specified that the exemption we make for lighting in the vessel of a pool is OK so that this provision does not conflict with our exemptions (MMC 16.34 already allows lighting in the vessels of pools, so that bit is not an expanse of existing lighting allowances).

The lighting schedule shall include both permanent luminaires and temporary luminaires used during construction.

**16.25.080 Figures of acceptable shielding and direction of outdoor light fixtures.**

The following four figures illustrate acceptable and unacceptable outdoor lighting fixtures in the city:

- Commented [SW13]: Not needed - typ
- Commented [KG14R13]: deleted

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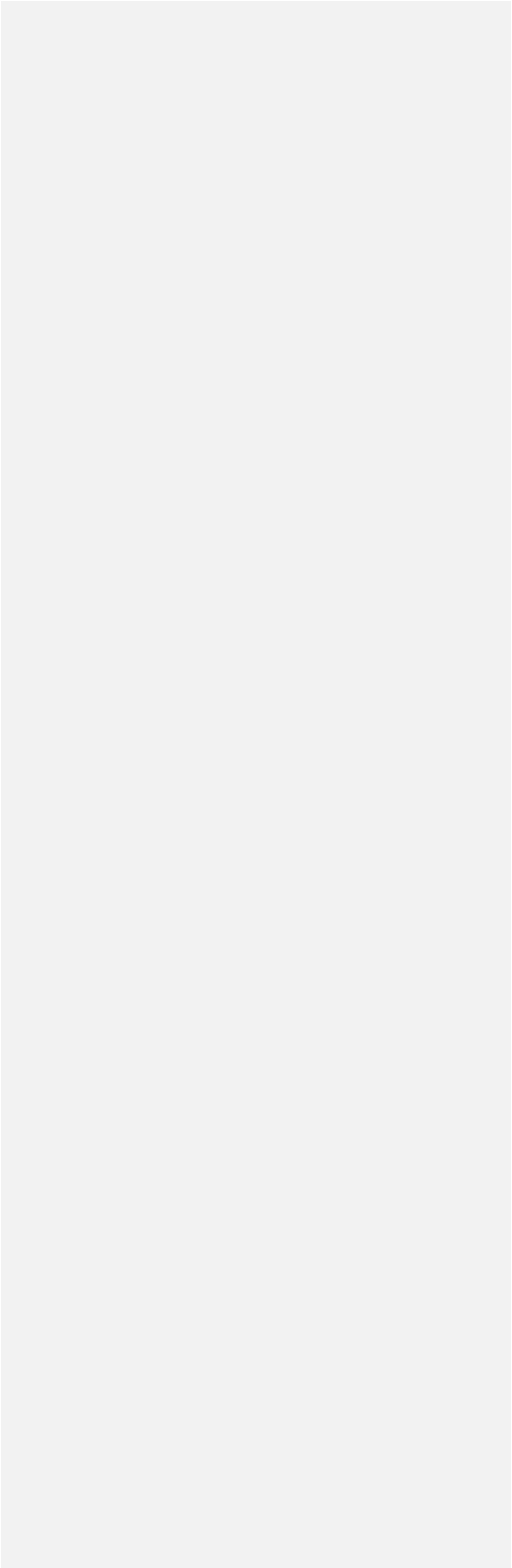
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**Figure 1: Wall-Mounted Lighting Fixtures**



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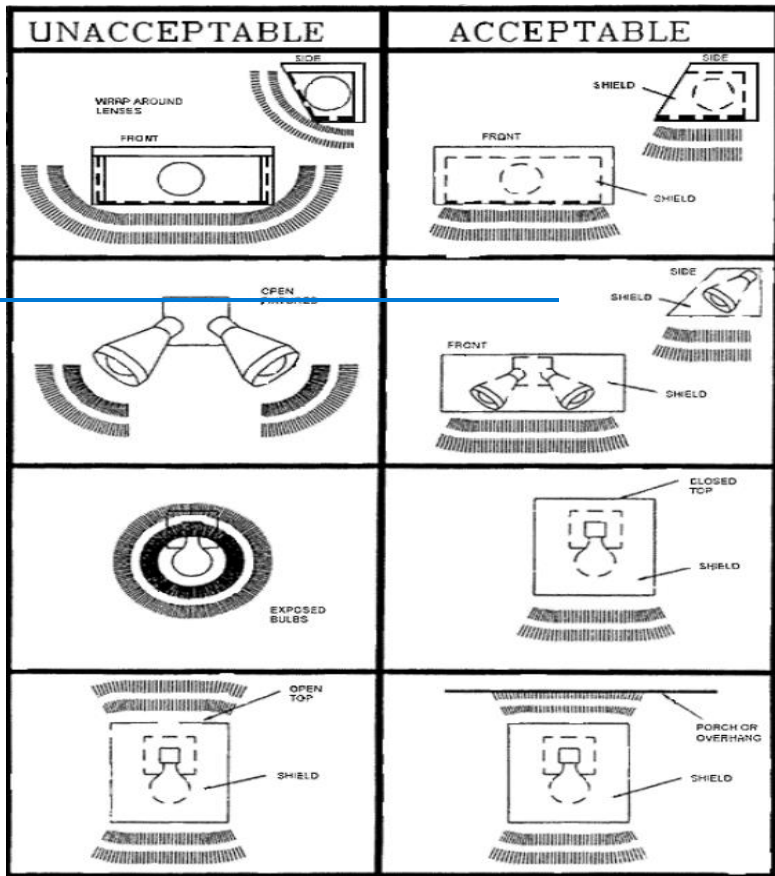


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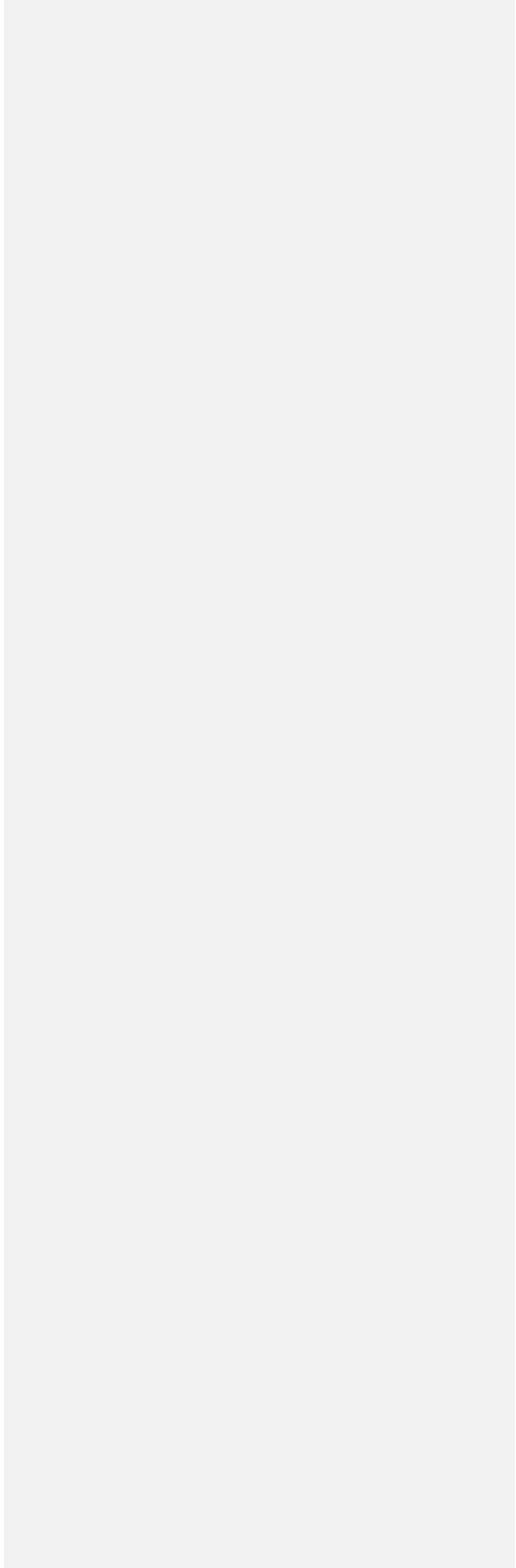


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**Figure 2: Freestanding Outdoor Lighting Fixtures**



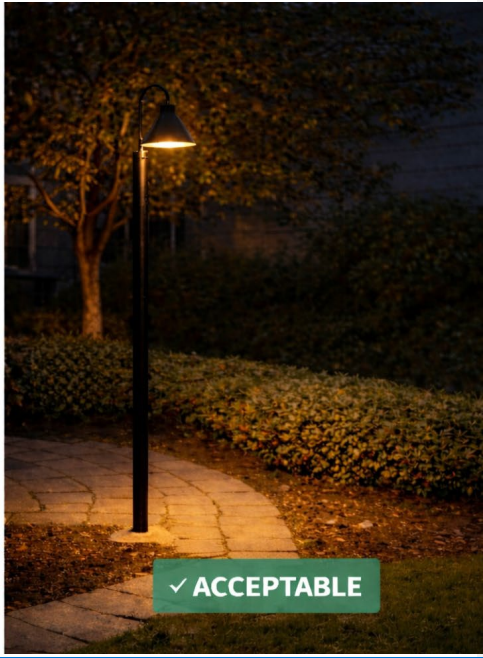
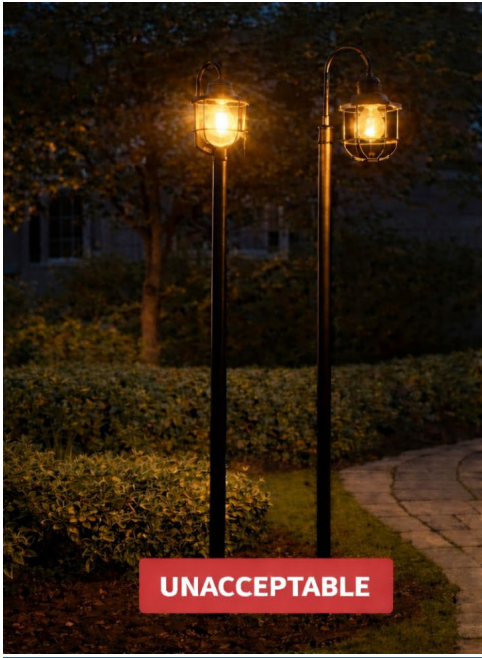
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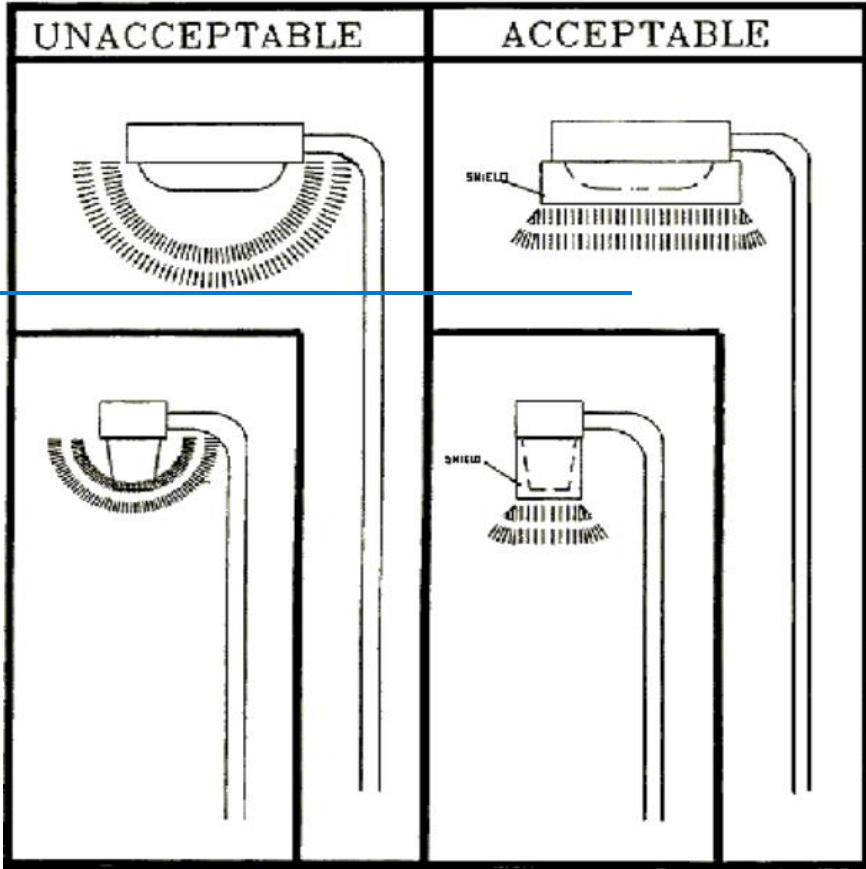
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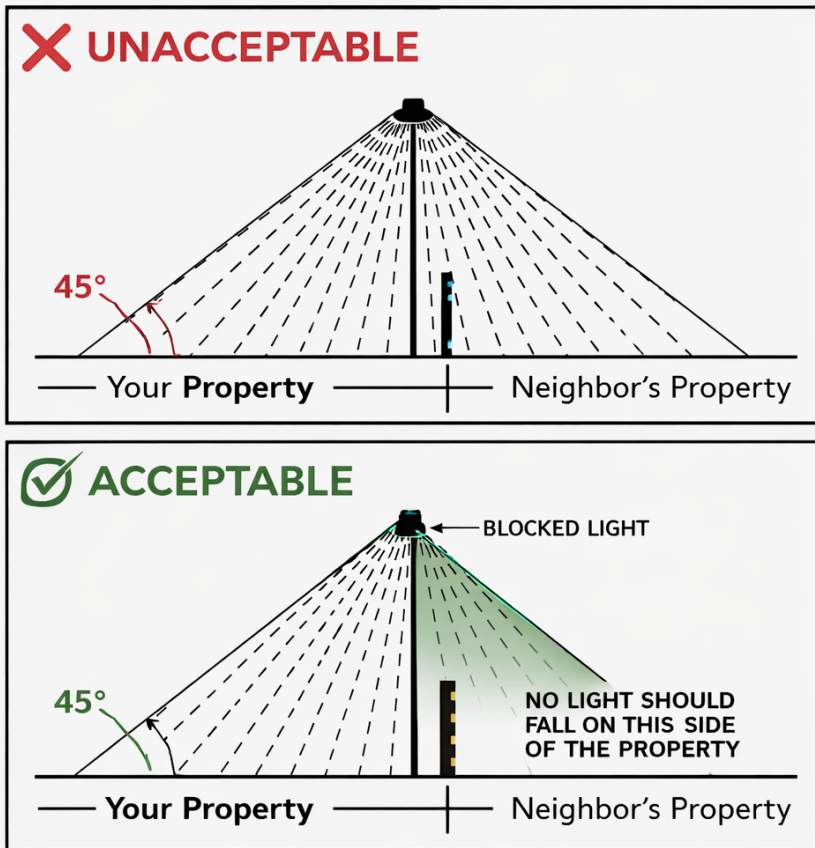
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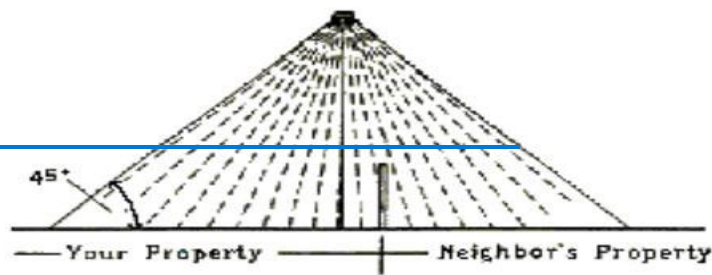
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Figure 3: Outdoor Lighting Fixtures—Street and Lot Light Cut-Off at Property Line



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ACCEPTABLE

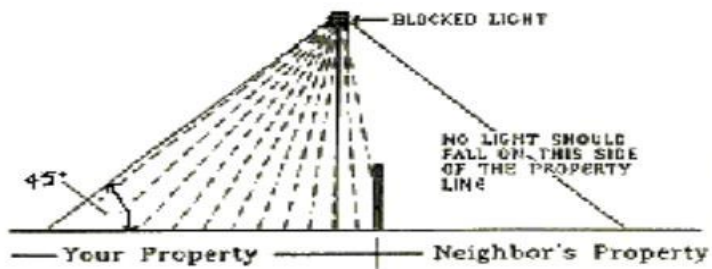


Figure 4: Accent Lighting: **Shielded & Downcast vs. Unshielded & Upward Cast**



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[Section 4.](#) Section 16.34.040 of the Medina Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**16.34.040. Accessory Recreational Facilities.**

C. Development standards.

5. Major recreational facilities that protrude into setback areas shall comply with the following requirements:

- a. Solid landscape screening pursuant to MMC 16.30.070 shall be installed along the perimeter of the lot from which the facility is set back, such that the use is concealed year-round from public streets, private lanes, and nearby properties;
- b. ~~All lighting shall be oriented or shielded such that the lighting does not shine or spill over onto neighboring properties or Lake Washington.~~ No lighting shall be allowed on sports courts or accessory recreational facilities, except lighting installed within the vessel of a pool, spa, or hot tub, provided the vessel lighting does not cause light trespass;
- c. Fences and barriers shall meet all development and building code requirements; and

**Commented [KG15]:** Recommending this edit to align with MMC 16.25.060(B).

d. Additional mitigation measures may be required such as, but not limited to, restricted hours of use, limitations on lighting, increased screening, altered location, etc., to minimize any negative impacts generated by the use of the accessory recreational facility.

Section 5. Section 16.80.030 of the Medina Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**16.80.030. General Provisions.**

C. Vesting. Building permit applications shall vest in accordance with RCW 19.27.095. Subdivision applications shall vest in accordance with RCW 58.17.033. Other project permit applications shall not result in vesting for the project; ~~however, all permits shall be processed under the development regulations in effect at the time of submission of a completed permit application as defined herein and all application fees are paid.~~ In addition, vesting for a project only includes vesting to land use control ordinances and does not apply to fees, procedural regulations, or stormwater regulations.

Section 4. Section 16.66.110 of the Medina Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**~~16.66.110. Lighting.~~**

~~A. Exterior lighting shall be controlled using limits on height, light levels of fixtures, light shields, and other mechanisms that:~~

- ~~1. Prevent light pollution or other adverse effects that could infringe upon public enjoyment of the shoreline;~~
- ~~2. Protect residential uses from adverse impacts that can be associated with light trespass from adjoining properties; and~~
- ~~3. Prevent adverse effects on fish and wildlife species and their habitats.~~

~~B. Exterior lighting shall be directed downward and away from adjoining residential properties and Lake Washington and shall be consistent with the requirements of Chapter 16.25 of the Medina Municipal Code. Shielding may be required to conceal the light source.~~

~~C. Exterior lighting mounted on piers, docks or other water dependent uses located at the shoreline edge shall be at ground or dock level and be designed to prevent lighting from spilling onto the lake water and shall be consistent with the requirements of Chapter 16.25 of the Medina Municipal Code.~~

**Commented [KG16]:** The City Attorney and I recommend that this edit be made with the City's Shoreline Master Program update, scheduled for adoption in 2029. Efforts toward this project will likely begin toward the end of 2027.

~~D. — The following shall be exemptions set forth in Chapter 16.25 of the Medina Municipal Code shall also apply in the Shoreline area, from the lighting requirements in this section:~~

- ~~1. — Emergency lighting required for public safety;~~
- ~~2. — Lighting for public rights of way;~~
- ~~3. — Outdoor lighting for temporary or periodic events (e.g., community events at public parks);~~
- ~~4. — Seasonal decoration lighting; and~~
- ~~5. — Lighting required by a state or federal agency for navigation purposes.~~