



Guide to Updated Lighting Code

What you need to know about Ordinance #10, Series of 2025.

The Lighting Code revisions enhance the Town's character and livability, prevent non-compliant outdoor lighting, reduce lighting conflicts between property owners, prevent the increase of sky glow, and preserve the naturally dark sky for the benefit of residents, visitors, wildlife, and the environment. The revisions will use a lumen-based metric in lieu of the previously utilized watt-based metric to better accommodate advancements in lighting technology.

Summary of Legislation:

- Passed by Town of Snowmass Village Council on September 2, 2025.
- All outdoor lighting must comply with the outdoor lighting regulations in Chapter 16A of the Town's Municipal Code.
- The Town has moved to measuring light by lumens rather than watts.
- All clear-lensed point light sources must be shielded. Any unshielded light source must use a non-clear, clouded material as the primary lens to reduce glare from the light bulb.
- The Town works on a complaint basis. The person complaining must identify themselves and submit a formal complaint in writing.
- All lighting trespass, seasonal lighting, curfew regulations, and curfew hours begin September 17, 2025.

Lighting Trespass:

- Light trespass is the measurable light that extends beyond the boundary of its usage area.
- The updated code now allows enforcement on light that emanates beyond the property line.
- Light trespass readings will only be taken and enforced upon within the hours of curfew, see below for hours of curfew.



Residential and Non-Residential Seasonal Lighting (formerly known as Holiday Lighting):

- Temporary Seasonal lighting is allowed in Residential areas from November 15 to January 31, and Commercial Zones from November 15 to March 1.
- Seasonal lighting shall not interfere with the safe movement of motor vehicles or create dangerous glare conditions on adjacent roadways or properties.
- Seasonal lighting shall be maintained in an attractive condition and not constitute a dangerous situation or fire hazard.
- Seasonal lighting shall be extinguished during nighttime hours.

Landscape Lighting:

- Landscape lighting shall be low lux (under 40 lux) and is considered non-essential seasonal lighting. Does not include entrance to the designated check-in area for hotels, condominium hotels, and lodging with 24-hour check-in periods.
- Landscape lighting must follow nighttime hours unless it is in a designated check-in area for hotels, condominium hotels, and lodging with 24-hour check-in periods.

Residential and Non-Residential Festoon Lighting:

- Festoon lighting is decorative overhead lighting that consists of multiple electric lamps, evenly spaced, wired to a flexible cable, and strung between at least two mounting points.

Residential: Considered seasonal lighting. Lights must be turned off during nighttime hours.

Commercial: Allowed year-round but must be turned off during nighttime hours.

Curfew Hours Are as Follows:

The time period for seasonal and non-essential outdoor lighting restrictions, observed in residential and commercial zone districts between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Unless business operating hours end or begin within the nighttime hours. If so, nighttime hours will begin one hour after closing or one hour before opening.