

**17.03.180(R) - Signs and outdoor lighting standards.**

11. **Outdoor lighting**—Purpose and intent. The purpose of this subsection is to provide outdoor lighting standards to ensure compatibility with neighboring uses while preserving the overall rural character of the county and the visibility of the night sky.
- a. **Applicability.** The provisions of this subsection shall apply to all zones within unincorporated Island County.
  - b. **Exemptions.** The following lighting fixtures are exempt from the requirements of this section:
    - (i) Holiday and seasonal decorative lighting fixtures;
    - (ii) Lighting 800 lumens or less;
    - (iii) Indoor lighting provided no light projects directly out a window or other opening;
    - (iv) Lighting equipment in swimming pools, spas, fountains, and other water features;
    - (v) Lighting for public athletic fields, fairgrounds, and approved temporary special events;
    - (vi) Lighting used for architectural or landscaping purposes provided that the light is aimed and controlled so that light is confined, as much as possible, to the objects that are intended to be lit, and does not project or cause unreasonable glare onto neighboring properties, rights-of-way, critical areas, or the night sky;
    - (vii) Lighting fixtures and standards required by federal, state, or county agencies;
    - (viii) Lighting fixtures used by law enforcement, fire and rescue, the State Department of Transportation or other emergency response agencies to perform emergency or construction repair work or to perform nighttime road construction on thoroughfares;
    - (ix) Moving vehicle lights;
    - (x) Navigation lights (i.e., radio/television towers, airports, docks, piers, buoys, lighthouses);
    - (xi) Normal low intensity residential lighting fixtures that are attached to a dwelling unit, guest cottage or accessory building. For purposes of interpreting this section, normal low intensity residential lighting fixtures do not include flood lamps, lighting fixtures intended to illuminate large areas, or lighting fixtures which project a focused light onto neighboring properties and roads (whether public or private);
    - (xii) Projection equipment for outdoor movie theaters and outdoor movie events;
    - (xiii) Street lights for public rights-of-way; and
    - (xiv) Traffic control signals and devices.
  - c. **Prohibited lighting.** The following lighting fixtures and types are prohibited:
    - (i) Lighting that projects directly onto neighboring properties, rights-of-way, waterways, critical areas, or the night sky; and
    - (ii) Lights that blink, flash, or are of unusual brightness or intensity.
  - d. **General lighting standards.**
    - (i) Lighting fixtures must be either full cut-off, fully shielded, flush mounted, or hooded and oriented towards the ground.
    - (ii) Lighting fixtures, whether attached to a building or pole, must meet the setback requirements of the applicable zone.
    - (iii) Pole mounted light fixtures shall not exceed the building height requirements of the applicable zone.
    - (iv) Light trespass and glare onto neighboring properties, rights-of-way, waterways, critical areas, and the night sky shall be minimized through shielding of the light fixtures, use of frosted bulbs, peripheral landscaping or fencing, or another effective method.