

Lighting for Residential Dwellings

During the process of designing and constructing a new dwelling or adding additional living space, consideration should be given to the impact of the minimum lighting requirements dictated by the Ontario Building Code. Section 9.34.2 directs owners and designers to the locations and requirements of lighting outlets. As the Ontario Building Code is minimum construction requirements, the design and layout of non-mandated lighting outlets is left to the developers and designers for a particular dwelling. Compliance with the minimum lighting requirements in the Ontario Building Code does not give a property owner the right to infringe on another person's right to enjoy their property.

When laying out and designing interior and exterior lighting requirements for your specific project, thought should be put into the impact that lighting would have on the natural environment and the enjoyment of both your and your neighbours' properties. The Municipality of Trent Lakes encourages development and enjoyment of your property and acknowledges that exterior and interior lighting plays a big part in doing so. The safety aspect is a clear consideration of the need for exterior lighting however this should be balanced with appropriate lighting that allows for safety and enjoyment of your neighbours' property.

The Municipality of Trent Lakes, in partnership with DarkSky International, promotes

5 Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting

to reduce light pollution, save energy, and protect the nighttime environment.

The five principles include:

- **Useful:** All light should have a clear, distinct purpose. If a light isn't needed, do not use it.
- **Targeted:** Direct light only where it is needed. Use fully shielded fixtures aimed downward so that light doesn't spill past the intended area or up into the night sky.
- **Low-Level:** The light should be no brighter than necessary. Lower lighting levels minimize glare and prevent excessive reflections.
- **Controlled:** Lights should be turned off when not required. Use timers, motion sensors, or dimmers to ensure they are on only when useful.
- **Warm-Coloured:** Use amber-toned, warm-colored lights (3000K or lower) whenever possible to minimize skyglow and protect local ecosystems.