

City of Claremont, CA
Tuesday, November 25, 2025

Title 16. Zoning

Chapter 16.154. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIVE STANDARDS

§ 16.154.030. Outdoor lighting and glare.

Excessive light and glare shall be limited by the use of appropriate light fixtures, shielding devices and directional lighting methods.

A. General Requirements

1. Outdoor light fixtures shall be designed, installed, and maintained so as to direct light only onto the property on which the light source is located. All outdoor lighting fixtures shall have prismatic diffusing lenses and/or appropriate shielding so the light source is not directly visible from the public right-of-way or abutting residential properties.

In residential areas, no mercury vapor utility yard lights or other light fixtures with high intensity discharge lamps or bulbs, which are not designed to limit or control where light is directed and/or which do not shield the light source from direct view from neighboring residential properties or public rights-of-way, shall be permitted.

2. No industrial or commercial operation, activity or lighting shall be permitted which results in the direct illumination of residential properties or uses.
3. Any indirect illumination of neighboring residential properties or uses shall not exceed 0.5 footcandles at the property line as measured horizontally and vertically from adjacent grade to a height of 14 feet.

B. New Development and Remodeling

Plans for such development or remodeling as is subject to Architectural Commission review per Chapter **16.300**, shall show outdoor lighting.

C. Single-Family Residential Development

1. No outdoor lighting fixtures for a single-family home or in any Single-Family Residential Districts shall be mounted more than 14 feet above adjacent grade on any wall or structure except when used to illuminate a second-story entryway, balcony, or outside stairway, in which case the fixture shall not be higher than eight feet above the floor of the second story.
2. No outdoor lighting fixture in any single-family residential development shall be mounted more than eight feet above adjacent grade on any pole.
3. Outdoor lighting for properties located within the RR (Rural Residential) Districts shall conform to the lighting requirements set forth in Chapter **16.007** of this title and in the Rural Claremont Architectural and Landscape Standards.

4. No building permit shall be issued for outdoor lighting for a single-family home or in a Single-Family Residential District until a lighting proposal, submitted by the applicant, has been reviewed by the Director of Community Development for compliance with the standards of this section. The lighting proposal shall include the following information:

- a. Site plan with proposed location of exterior lights.
- b. Type, design, and size of light fixture.
- c. Height of light fixture.
- d. Type and total wattage of lamps.
- e. Any additional information the Director deems necessary to determine compliance with the provisions of this section.

D. Multiple Family Development

Outdoor lighting for properties located within the RM (Medium Density Residential) Districts shall be designed, installed, and maintained so that direct rays of light are directed downward into the interior of the lot.

E. Parking Areas

Lighting for parking areas newly constructed with six or more spaces shall be subject to the lighting standards set forth in Chapter **16.136**.

F. Sign Illumination

All illumination of signs shall be reviewed and approved per the provisions of Title 18.

G. Automobile Service Station Lighting

All outdoor lighting for automobile service stations shall be subject to the lighting requirements set forth in Chapter **16.087**.

H. Exemptions

1. The following outdoor light fixtures shall be exempt from the provisions of subsections 16.154.030.A.1, 16.154.030.C.1 and 16.154.030.D:
 - a. Light fixtures with incandescent lamps or bulbs of 100 watts or less, provided that there are no more than two lamps or bulbs, or 200 watts per light fixture. (Quartz or tungsten halogen lamps shall not be considered incandescent lamps for purposes of this title.)
 - b. Light fixtures with fluorescent lamps, bulbs or tubes of 20 watts or less, provided that there are no more than two lamps, bulbs or tubes, or 40 watts per light fixture.
 - c. All light fixtures producing light directly by the combustion of fossil fuels, such as kerosene lanterns or gas lamps.
2. All existing outdoor lighting that was approved by the Architectural Commission prior to May 25, 1989, shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

I. Nonconforming Lighting

All existing outdoor lighting which does not conform to the provisions of this section shall be removed or made to conform with the standards of this section by July 1, 1991.

(08-05)