

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

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- Follow your local lighting ordinance requirements.
- If you are a beachfront homeowner, shield, redirect or lower lights on your property that are visible from the beach, and turn off lights not required for safety.
- Replace problematic lights with sea turtle friendly alternatives. Use long wavelength LED bulbs (560 nm and above), such as yellow, amber, or red.
- Apply window tint at 15% light transmittance level and close opaque curtains or blinds after dark to reduce interior lighting problems.
- Do not use flashlights, cell phones, flash photography or lanterns on the beach at night during nesting season.

## THE BENEFITS

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- Improved sleep cycles
- Restored night vision
- Energy savings
- Clear views of the night sky
- Compliance with local lighting ordinances
- Protection of threatened and endangered sea turtles and other wildlife



## QUESTIONS?

- Check with your local municipality or county to find out if a lighting ordinance is enforced in your area. If you live in an area without an ordinance, you are still responsible for protecting sea turtles by adopting wildlife certified lighting.
- You can purchase sea turtle friendly lights through local lighting distributors. All fixtures and bulbs must be wildlife certified by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Visit our website at [www.conserveturtles.org](http://www.conserveturtles.org) for more information.

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Sea Turtle Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Florida with a 60-year history of sea turtle research, conservation and education.



[@conserveturtles](https://www.instagram.com/conserveturtles)

# SEA TURTLES & LIGHTING



SEA TURTLE



CONSERVANCY

Sea Turtle Conservancy  
[www.conserveturtles.org](http://www.conserveturtles.org)  
(352) 373-6441

## THE PROBLEM



Our beaches have transformed over the last 200 years from dark, highly evolving ecosystems to

tourist destinations lined with brightly lit businesses and condominiums.



Nesting sea turtles are deterred by artificial lights found on beachfront properties and

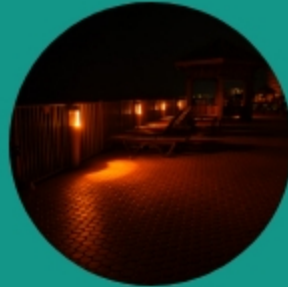
often fail to come ashore to nest on brightly lit beaches. In addition, artificial lights serve as the brightest lights on the beach, attracting sea turtle hatchlings toward land. Many affected hatchlings often become disoriented, or confused, and die from dehydration, exhaustion or meet terrestrial predators on the beach.

## DID YOU KNOW?



It is estimated that one third of all lighting in the U.S. is wasted in the form of light trespass and sky glow. With an annual release of 21 million tons of carbon dioxide, the cost of wasted lighting is about \$3 billion each year! (IDA, darksky.org)

## THREE RULES TO TURTLE FRIENDLY LIGHTING



**Rule #1**  
Keep it low.  
The lower the fixture, the less likely it is to be seen from the beach.



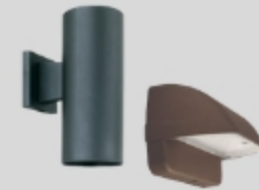
**Rule #2**  
Keep it shielded.  
Shielding directs the light and prevents light sources from being seen from the beach, while still providing sufficient lighting for people.



**Rule #3**  
Keep it long.  
Sea turtles are less disturbed by long wavelengths of light (560 nm and above), such as yellow, amber, and red.

## SEA TURTLE FRIENDLY FIXTURES AND BULBS

A good sea turtle friendly fixture directs light down where it's needed for safety, shields the light source from being visible from the beach, and is outfitted with a long wavelength LED bulb.



Wall Mounted Fixtures



Ceiling Mounted Fixtures



Pathway Lighting



Area Lighting



Red & Amber LEDs



Shielded Spotlights