



SEA
TURTLES

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO RESIDENTS ON THE EAST SIDE OF OCEAN BOULEVARD

Sea Turtle nesting season runs through 10/31. Florida State Statutes require residents living on the **east side of Ocean Boulevard** to comply with restrictions regarding lighting that may disrupt sea turtles' nesting process.

Artificial lights (meaning the light emanating from any human-made device) includes porch lights, security lights, and even indoor lighting that spills out of windows and glass doors. These forms of light can disorient and deter sea turtles from coming ashore to lay their eggs. The same lights can also cause hatchlings to lose their way. Be sure your home is equipped with turtle-safe lighting and close window shades at night to keep interior light indoors.

Violating Turtle Safety regulations can result in costly civil citations. Should you have any questions as to how to comply with these important regulations please visit the Florida Department of Environmental Protection website at www.dep.state.fl.us.

For reference, below are some selections from the **Town's Code of Ordinances regarding proper handling of Turtle-Safe Lighting. The full Code of Ordinances may be viewed online at municode.com.**

Sec. 58-51. - Purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of the article is to implement the Florida Department of Environmental Protection model lighting ordinance for marine turtle protection as authorized by F.S. § 161.163, which requires the Department to designate coastal areas utilized, or likely to be utilized, by sea turtles for nesting, and to establish guidelines for local government regulations that control beachfront lighting to protect hatching sea turtles. This article is intended to protect hatchling marine turtles from the adverse effects of artificial lighting, provide overall improvement in nesting habitat degraded by light pollution, and increase successful nesting activity and production of hatchlings.

(Ord. No. 426.97, § 1, 6-17-97)

Sec. 58-53. - Prohibition of activities disruptive to marine turtles.

The following activities involving direct illumination of portions of the beach are prohibited on the beach at nighttime during the nesting season for the protection of nesting females, nests, and hatchling marine turtles:

- (1) The operation of motorized vehicles, except emergency and law enforcement vehicles or those permitted on the beach for marine turtle conservation or research.
- (2) The building of open fires.

(Ord. No. 426.97, § 1, 6-17-97)

Sec. 58-54. - Standards for new beachfront lighting.

In order to provide the highest level of protection for nesting marine turtles and their hatchlings, the Town of Golden Beach adopts all of the following standards for artificial light sources on all new coastal construction:

- (1) Exterior artificial light fixtures shall be designed and positioned so that:
 - a. The point source of light or any reflective surface of the light fixture is not directly visible from the beach;
 - b. Areas seaward of the frontal dune are not directly or indirectly illuminated; and
 - c. Areas seaward of the frontal dune are not cumulatively illuminated.
- (2) Exterior artificial light fixtures within direct line-of-sight of the beach are considered appropriately designed if:
 - a. Completely shielded downlight only fixtures or recessed fixtures having low wattage (i.e., 60 watts or less) bug type bulbs and non-reflective interior surfaces are used. Other fixtures that have appropriate shields, louvers, or cut-off features may also be used if they are in compliance with subsection (1)(a), (b), and (c) above; and
 - b. All fixtures are mounted as low in elevation as possible through use of low-mounted wall fixtures, low bollards, and ground-level fixtures.

- (3) Floodlights, uplights or spotlights for decorative and accent purposes that are directly visible from the beach, or which indirectly or cumulatively illuminate the beach, shall not be used.
- (4) Exterior lights used expressly for safety or security purposes shall be limited to the minimum number and configuration required to achieve their functional role(s). The use of motion detector switches that keep lights off except when approached and that switch lights on for the minimum duration possible are preferred.
- (5) Only low intensity lighting shall be used in parking areas within line-of-sight of the beach. Such lighting shall be:
 - a. Set on a base which raises the source of light no higher than 48 inches off the ground; and
 - b. Positioned or shielded so that the light is cast downward and the source of light or any reflective surface of the light fixture is not visible from the beach and does not directly or indirectly illuminating the beach.
- (6) Parking areas and roadways, including any paved or unpaved areas upon which motorized vehicles will park or operated, shall be designed and located to prevent vehicular headlights from directly or indirectly illuminating the beach.
- (7) Vehicular lighting, parking area lighting, and roadways lighting shall be shielded from the beach through the use of ground-level barriers. Ground-level barriers must not interfere with marine turtle nesting or hatchling emergence, or cause short-or long-term damage to the beach/dune system.
- (8) Use of appropriately shielded low pressure sodium vapor lamps and fixtures shall be preferred for high-intensity lighting applications such as lighting parking areas and roadways, providing security, and similar applications.
- (9) Temporary lighting of construction sites during the marine turtle nesting season shall be restricted to the minimal amount necessary and shall incorporate all of the standards of this section.

(Ord. No. 426.97, § 1, 6-17-97)

Sec. 58-55. - Standards for existing beachfront lighting.

In order to provide the highest level of protection for nesting marine turtles and their hatchlings, the Town of Golden Beach adopts all of the following standards for existing artificial beachfront lighting sources:

- (1) Existing artificial light fixtures shall be repositioned, modified, or removed so that:
 - a. The point source of light or any reflective surface of the light fixture is not directly visible from the beach;
 - b. Areas seaward of the frontal dune are not directly or indirectly illuminated; and
 - c. Areas seaward of the frontal dune are not cumulatively illuminated.
- (2) The following measures shall be taken to reduce or eliminate the negative effects of existing exterior artificial lighting:
 - a. Reposition fixtures so that the point source of light or any reflective surface of the light fixture is no longer visible from the beach;
 - b. Replace fixtures having an exposed light source with fixtures containing recessed light sources or shields;
 - c. Replace traditional light bulbs with yellow bug type bulbs not exceeding 60 watts;
 - d. Replace non-directional fixtures with directional fixtures that point down and away from the beach;

- e. Replace fixtures having transparent or translucent coverings with fixtures having opaque shields covering an arc of at least 180 degrees and extending an appropriate distance below bottom edge of the fixture on the seaward side so that the light source or any reflective surface of the light fixture is not visible from the beach;
- f. Replace pole lamps with low-profile, low-level luminaries so that the light source or any reflective surface of the light fixture is not visible from the beach;
- g. Replace incandescent, florescent, and high intensity lighting with the lowest wattage low pressure sodium vapor lighting possible for the specific application;
- h. Plan or improve vegetation buffers between the light source and the beach to screen light from the beach;
- i. Construct a ground level barrier to shield light sources from the beach. Ground-level barriers must not interfere with marine turtle nesting or hatchling emergence, or cause short- or long-term damage to the beach/dune system;
- j. Permanently remove or permanently disable any fixture which cannot be brought into compliance with the provisions of these standards.

(Ord. No. 426.97, § 1, 6-17-97)

[The Town's full Code of Ordinances can be viewed online at www.municode.com](http://www.municode.com)

Thank you
for your Cooperation!



Golden
BEACH