



**Planning Division**  
**CLIENT ASSISTANCE MEMO**

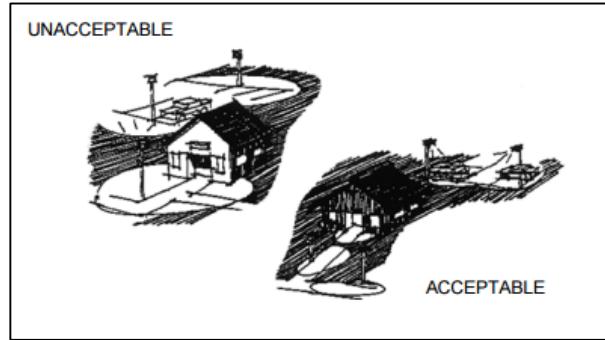
## Outdoor Lighting Standards

### Purpose of the Standards

Outdoor lighting is important for safety and visibility. Light can also enhance a setting if the intensity and source of the light corresponds to the visual character of the surroundings. The standards promote safety and visibility while also protecting the quality of the night sky. See GHMC 17.99.350 and 17.99.460 for complete standards

### Outdoor Lighting Standards

1. Light sources must be hidden from the public view. Light bulbs or lenses must be hidden behind an opaque shield except on approved decorator lights. The public should not be able to see sources of high intensity light, even it is behind a lens.
2. Use downward directional lighting. Except for intermittent security lighting on motion detectors, all lights more than seven feet above the ground must be downward directional lighting. The fixture's housing must be totally opaque. Clear or refractive lenses may not extend below the housing.
3. Avoid lighting large areas with a single source. Large areas may be lit with a number of low-intensity sources close to the area requiring illumination. Avoid illuminating a large area with a remote single source of light.
4. Avoid excessive light throw. Outdoor lighting should be designed to illuminate only your property. No light should go beyond your property boundaries. Outdoor lighting should also be designed to illuminate surfaces intended only for pedestrians or vehicles. Avoid lighting landscaped areas except where lighting is part of the landscaped area adjacent to buildings or in areas intended for recreational use.
5. Choose approved outdoor light designs. You may choose "Shoe Box" style pole lamps, ornamental pole lamps, and bollard lights. Utilitarian styles which are industrial in appearance (mercury vapor lights, cobra lights, etc.) are prohibited.



Client Assistance Memos are not intended to replace the Gig Harbor Municipal Code. Should you have any questions regarding this information please call the Planner of the Day at (253) 851-6170.

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