

5 LIGHTING PRINCIPLES QUICK REFERENCE

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY



1. USEFUL - All light should have a clear purpose.

Before installing or replacing a light, determine if light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.



2. TARGETED - Light should be directed only to where needed.

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



3. LOW LIGHT LEVELS - Light should be no brighter than necessary.

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



4. CONTROLLED - Light should be used only when it is useful.

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



5. COLOR - Use warmer color lights where possible.

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.