

Hill Country Lighting Done Right

Keys to Night Sky Friendly Lighting

Fully Shielded

A fully shielded fixture is angled so people and wildlife cannot see the light source. Choose fully shielded lighting with a barrier at the top of the fixture, extending beyond and surrounding the light source. Ensure that all lighting points downward and does not shine above the horizon.

No Brighter Than Necessary

Over-lighting creates detrimental skyglow and glare, reducing our ability to see at night. Use lights only as bright as necessary to serve their function.

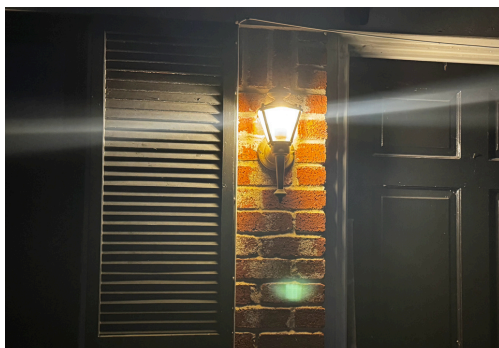
Color Temperature

A light's color is measured in degrees Kelvin (K), from 1000K (orange/red) to 10,000K (blue). Choosing warm color bulbs at or under 3000K - preferably 2200K - reduces disruption of nocturnal habitats and circadian rhythms.

Only On When Needed

The friendliest night sky lighting is no lighting at all. If lighting is desired, consider using a motion sensor or timer. Turning off outdoor lighting is especially important during peak bird migration in the spring and fall, when birds use starry skies to navigate. [#LightsOutTexas](#)

Private Residence - Austin, Texas



☒ Fully Shielded ☒ Brightness
☒ Color Temperature



Courtesy Travis County Friends of the Night Sky

☒ Fully Shielded ☒ Brightness
☒ Color Temperature

Swiss Lodge - Blanco, Texas



☒ Fully Shielded ☒ Brightness
☒ Color Temperature



Courtesy Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky

☒ Fully Shielded ☒ Brightness
☒ Color Temperature

Texas Regional Bank - Blanco, Texas



☒ Fully Shielded ☒ Brightness
☒ Color Temperature



Courtesy Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky

☒ Fully Shielded ☒ Brightness
☒ Color Temperature



Night Sky Champions Deserve Recognition!

LOCAL

Night Sky Friendly Business Program - Hill Country Alliance

The Hill Country Night Sky Team and the Hill Country Alliance work in partnership with chambers of commerce to [recognize businesses and organizations](#) that have night sky friendly outdoor lighting

Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood Program - Hill Country Alliance

Subdivisions and neighborhoods can receive recognition through this program by adopting the [County Subdivision and Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood outdoor lighting policy](#) into their homeowners agreements or deed restrictions.

STATEWIDE

Be A Star - Dark Sky Texas

This self-assessment program encourages landowners to evaluate their outdoor lighting, awarding recognition to those who eliminate things like glare, light trespass, and excess lighting on their properties.

BOLD Initiative: Better Outdoor Lighting Decisions (BOLD) - Dark Sky Texas

This initiative connects conservation-minded organizations, businesses, large landholders, and governmental entities with resources to minimize their contribution to regional light pollution.

Texan by Nature Certification

Project Certification provides recognition to Texas employers, organizations, and individuals that can quantify their impacts on people, prosperity, and natural resources.

INTERNATIONAL

International Dark Sky Places - Dark Sky International

This program certifies communities, parks, and protected areas around the world that preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

Home Outdoor Lighting Assessment - Dark Sky International

This self-guided, four-step program helps homeowners and renters evaluate and improve their outdoor lighting to reduce light pollution.

DIY: Conduct Your Own Night Sky Lighting Assessment

Here are some great questions you should always ask when considering new outdoor lighting, adapted from Dark Sky International's [Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting](#):



Is the light necessary?



Is the light fully shielded and only illuminating where needed?



Is the light off when not in use or activated by a motion sensor or timing system?



How bright is the light? Does it allow you to see beyond the lit area?



What color temperature is the light?