

City of Blanco  
Unified Development Code

February 14, 2006  
(Outdoor Lighting Excerpt)

**UDC Chapter 5: Subdivision and Land Development City of Blanco**

**Section 5.12 Outdoor Lighting**

*(1) Purpose and Applicability*

- a. The purpose of this section is to regulate outdoor lighting in order to reduce or prevent light pollution in the City.
- b. Applicability
  - i. All outdoor lighting fixtures installed on private and public property within the city limits after the adoption of this UDC will be required to comply with this Code.
  - ii. All indoor lighting fixtures and all outdoor lighting fixtures existing and legally installed and operating before the effective date of this Code shall be exempt from this Code unless they are determined to create a safety hazard.
  - iii. The replacement of an existing lighting fixture or modification of a nonconforming fixture is subject to the provisions of this Code.
  - iv. The regulations contained in this section are binding only within the City Limits of Blanco.
  - v. Compliance with the regulations in this section is strongly encouraged for improvements and developments within the ETJ in order to prevent light pollution and preserve the rural and historic character of the City.
  - vi. A description of all outdoor lighting fixtures and their planned locations shall be included with the applications for all building permits other than single-family and duplex residential to ensure compliance with this Code. UDC Chapter 5 Subdivision and Land Development City of Blanco

*(2) General Standards*

- a. Outdoor lighting shall be designed to provide the minimum lighting necessary to ensure adequate safety, night vision, and comfort, and not create or cause excessive glare onto adjacent properties and public street rights of way.
- b. Outdoor lighting must be hooded, shielded, and/or aimed downward.
- c. Any bright light shining onto an adjacent property or streets that would result in a safety hazard is not permitted. Light trespass beyond property boundaries or above the horizontal plane shall be considered non-compliant.

- d. When approved, accent lighting shall be directed downward onto the structure or object and not toward the sky or adjacent properties. Direct light emissions shall not be visible above the roofline or beyond the building edge.
- e. Spotlights on landscaping and foliage shall be limited to one hundred and fifty (150) watts output. The light shall be shielded and so as not to create a nuisance or safety hazard.

*(3) Exemptions*

The following are exempt from the provisions of this Code:

- a. Publicly maintained traffic control devices.
- b. Temporary emergency lighting (fire, police, repair crews).
- c. Lighting fixtures and illumination requirements imposed by TxDOT within TxDOT right of way.
- d. Moving vehicle lights.
- e. Navigation lights (aircraft warning beacons on water towers and wireless transmission facilities), notwithstanding the terms as may be set forth in licensing agreements with the owners/operators of such lights.
- f. Signs and associated lighting that conform to the sign regulations of this Code.
- g. Seasonal decorations with lights in place no longer than sixty (60) days.
- h. Sports field lighting, until 11:00 P.M.
- i. Other temporary uses approved by the City Council (festivals, carnivals, fairs, night-time construction).
- j. Covered porch lighting on residences provided that each external light fixture does not exceed one-hundred and fifty (150) watts (2220 lumens).
- k. Security lights of any output that are controlled by a motion sensor switch provided they remain illuminated for duration not to exceed ten to twelve (10-12) minutes after activation