



Town of Hilton Head Island

SEA TURTLE PROTECTION ORDINANCE BASIC GUIDELINES FOR EXISTING DEVELOPMENT

These are only basic guidelines. Standards for new development, new windows, new light outdoor light fixtures, dune walkover lights, construction security lights, etc. are listed in the full Ordinance, which is available on the Town's website: www.hiltonheadislandsc.gov.

If an outdoor or indoor light fixture is visible from the beach, the bulb itself must be shielded or turned off. For outdoor fixtures, the light must be directed downward.

Why

Artificial light disorients sea turtle hatchlings. Disoriented hatchlings are less likely to get to the ocean before they die or are eaten by predators. Shielding light bulbs and reducing the amount of light in the sky makes it less likely that turtles will get disoriented.

DOES THE ORDINANCE PROHIBIT ALL VISIBLE LIGHT?

No

DO I HAVE TO CLOSE ALL THE CURTAINS AND TURN OFF ALL THE LIGHTS AT NIGHT?

No. If light bulbs that are visible from the beach are shielded, you do not need to close the blinds or turn off the lights.

WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO SHIELD THE BULBS IN A LIGHT FIXTURE?

You can turn off the light between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. from during Sea Turtle Nesting Season (May 1 to October 31).



MORE QUESTIONS?

HHI Code Enforcement at **843-341-4643** or at CodeEnforcement@HiltonHeadIsland.gov.