

TURTLE FRIENDLY lighting GUIDELINES

SEA TURTLES DIG THE DARK

Before artificial lights dotted the shorelines, sea turtles could rely on using light as their cue to differentiate between land and sea. Land was dark compared to the starry sky and the reflective surface of the water. For over 100 million years, nesting mothers and hatchlings would follow the light to return to the ocean. They still follow the same cue, but unfortunately this often leads them inland, causing overexertion, entanglement and even death.

HELP THEM FIND THEIR WAY

Scientific research has led to discoveries and solutions on how to minimize your impacts on sea turtle disorientation

EXTERIOR LIGHTING:

- **KEEP IT LOW:** Mount lights as low as possible. Use low wattage and lumens
- **KEEP IT SHIELDED:** Use a fixture that directs the light downwards towards the ground
- **KEEP IT LONG:** Use long-wavelength bulbs, with wavelengths no lower than 560nm. *Sea turtles are less attracted to longer wavelengths (amber, orange, red)*
- Use only the lights you need and use timers when appropriate

INTERIOR LIGHTING:

Be mindful of the light escaping your windows at night

- Use curtains or shades
- Install tinted windows (45% tint recommended)
- Use only the lights you need

ON THE BEACH

- Use only red lights when needed
- Be aware of the glow of your phone and limit use as much as possible
- Refrain from fires during nesting season



TURTLE FRIENDLY lighting RECOMMENDATIONS

Most wildlife-friendly bulbs and fixtures will need to be sourced from the manufacturer, as most of our local stores unfortunately do not carry these options. Below you will find helpful links to choosing and sourcing the fixtures and bulbs that suit your needs.

USEFUL LINKS AND GUIDELINES:

[FWC Sea Turtle Lighting Guidelines](#)

- A helpful document in understanding turtle-friendly lighting initiatives and guidelines

[Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Certified Wildlife Lighting](#)

- Includes specifications, product information and manufacturer links for a wide range of FWC Certified Wildlife Lighting Options
 - Wall Fixtures
 - Ceiling Mount Fixtures
 - Step Lighting
 - Pole Fixtures
 - Roadway Lighting
 - Walkway Lighting
 - Bulbs
 - Bollard
 - Bullet/Tape LED
 - Underwater

