



Light Pollution in residential neighbourhoods

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Figure 1: Unshielded - omnidirectional



Figure 2: Shielded and directed to the ground

People are installing more and brighter lights on their houses and landsites that are “ON” all night causing light pollution, which is becoming more prevalent in the residential neighbourhoods of Baie-D’Urfé.

Light pollution is defined as excessive light that is unwanted and annoying. If the lights are high in intensity and misdirected (*Figure 1*), the light produced can spill onto neighbouring properties and cause glaring effects, which will disturb the neighbours and passersby.

The Zoning **By-Law 875**, article 3.14 states:

“In all zones other than industrial, no exterior lighting device shall disturb the surrounding uses by its intensity or its brightness.”

According to experts, light pollution has various health effects on humans, wildlife, and ecosystems; not to mention the energy wastage which contributes to green house gas effects.

It makes sense to install a light at every exit to the house as required for safety reasons. But, It is not necessary to install high wattage lights all around the house and on the ground, which are left “ON” all night!

These lights should be low wattage bulbs pointing to the ground, shielded all around the light fixtures (*Figure 2*) and limited in number so as not to disturb the neighbours. They should be operated on a timer, or motion activated.

By doing so, your neighbours will thank you for your consideration!