



## Town of Fort Myers Beach

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### SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON: May 1 – October 31

The Fort Myers Beach Sea Turtle Ordinance has been updated keep up with LED lighting technology advances. However, the mantra is the same: Keep it **LOW**, Keep It **LONG**, and Keep It **SHEILDED**.

#### ALL 3 ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE.

##### Keep It **LOW**

Keep Light Low to the Ground  
Lowest Wattage Possible To  
Achieve Required Light Levels

##### Keep It **LONG**

Long Wavelength Light  
FWC Wildlife Certified Bulbs  
560 nm or more

##### Keep It **SHEILDED**

Opaque Shielding  
Downward Directed  
Shield Bulb from Beach

**Turn off unnecessary lights.** Don't use decorative lighting (such as runner lights or uplighting of vegetation) in areas that are visible from the beach and permanently remove, disable, or turn off fixtures that cannot be modified in any other way.

**Shield the light source.** Materials such as aluminum flashing can be used as a shield to direct light and keep it off the beach. When shielding lights, it is important to make sure they are shielded from all areas on the beach (including from either side and on top), and not just from the beach directly in front of the light.

**Replace fixtures that scatter light in all directions** (such as globe lights or carriage lights) with directional fixtures that point down and away from the beach.

**Replace lights on poles with low profile, low-level lamps** so that the light source and reflected light are not visible from the beach.

**Replace incandescent, fluorescent, and high intensity lighting** with the lowest wattage amber, orange, or red LED possible to provide adequate light.

**Plant or improve vegetation buffers** (such as sea grapes and other native beach vegetation) between the light source and the beach to screen light from the beach.

**Use shielded motion detector lights** for lighting and set them on the shortest time setting.

**To reduce spillover from indoor lighting move light fixtures away from windows**, apply window tint to your windows that meets the 15% inside to outside transmittance standards for tinted glass, or **use window treatments (blinds, curtains) to shield interior lights from the beach.**

**Remove Beach Furniture and any other obstructions** that can interfere with a nesting sea turtle or hatchling.

#### Frequently Asked Questions

*How do I know I am using the correct light bulb?* Look for the "FWC Certified Wildlife Friendly" certificate. Bulbs that specify the wavelength to be 560 nanometers or greater are compliant. Yellow bug lights, films and filters are no longer acceptable. These bulbs are available online, at local stores & at the Mound House.

*My windows and sliders are 45%. Do I have to replace my windows and doors with 15% light transmittance sea turtle glass?* No, only new construction is required to be 15% transmittance.

*Do I need curtains if I already have tinted turtle glass?* Probably Yes. 45% transmittance is usually not enough to shield interior lights to achieve compliance. Use block out, opaque curtains to shield interior lights from the beach.

**NEED HELP?** Contact Chadd at the Town of Fort Myers Beach to schedule a beach lighting check:  
Phone: (239) 462-8127 or Email: [chadd@fmbgov.gov](mailto:chadd@fmbgov.gov)

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