

My Neighbors Lighting Is Making It Difficult For Me To Enjoy My Property

We frequently receive lighting concerns from many freeholders around both lakes. Have you experienced this scenario: A neighbor installs a new light fixture on their property. It's unshielded and casts a bright light that spills onto your property and perhaps even inside your home. It can be blinding while sitting on your deck, dock, or while trying to enjoy your hot tub.

This is known as **light trespass**, which can cause much agony and frustration for those who like to enjoy the calm and beauty of the night sky.

To be fair, your neighbor may not even realize that their unshielded lighting is shining on your property, wasting energy and money, and creating a safety hazard.

Many people believe that more and brighter lighting makes us safer, but no conclusive evidence suggests that's true. In fact, glare from unshielded lights can make it difficult to see into shadowed areas.

So, how do you talk to your neighbor about this situation? We suggest taking the following steps to approach your neighbor about their lighting that is negatively affecting how you get to enjoy your property.

- Make friends, not enemies. Your neighbors probably don't even realize their lighting is bothersome. Kindly invite them over to see their lighting from your perspective.
- Stay positive and don't argue. Be tactful and understanding about your neighbors right to light their property.
- Suggest alternatives to their current fixture. Ask them to move the light, shield it, or add a motion sensor, to its activated only when needed. Offer to help get this done.
- Be informative. Talking to your neighbor is a great opportunity to be an advocate for good lighting. There are many reasons to use dark sky friendly lighting. Read up on the issues regarding light pollution. **DarkSky.Org** has several educational resources that can be useful.
- Having a list of shielded light fixtures to provide as alternatives to your neighbors current lighting is recommended
- Don't dismiss their need to feel safe. Remember that home is a place where everyone wants to feel relaxed and safe.
- Explain that light trespass is a form of light pollution, but it is advised that you don't threaten legal action. The idea of a lawsuit can create bad feelings in the whole neighborhood
- **Remember that everyone wants the same thing: a chance to relax in their own environment. Above all else, please be a considerate neighbor. Work together to create an atmosphere that benefits the community.**

For more information regarding friendly lighting, talking to your neighbors, light shielding fixtures, and the environmental benefits of a dark sky, visit **DarkSky. Org** for more information.

