

City of Aspen Outdoor Lighting Code Amendments



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ORDINANCE #12, SERIES OF 2023:

SUMMARY:

- Passed by Aspen City Council on November 14, 2023.
- All outdoor lighting on private property in Aspen must comply with the outdoor lighting regulations in Title 26 of the City's Municipal Code.
- All fixtures that are replaced after December 14 must comply with Chapter 26.512 - Outdoor lighting regulations.
- All lighting trespass, seasonal lighting, curfew regulations, and curfew hours begin December 15, 2023.

Residential and Non-Residential Thresholds for Whole-Site Compliance:

When replacing light fixtures, first evaluate your site for the following thresholds:

- Total lumens of replaced or added fixtures is equal to or more than 40% of the total site lumen allowance listed in Chapter 26.512.
- Changes that qualify as an IEBC Alteration Level 3 require a conversation with the City of Aspen Building department to determine if the scope meets this alteration level.
- Change in use or re-zoning.
- New development on a vacant lot.
- Meet the definition of redevelopment as defined in Title 26.



If your parcel meets any of the above thresholds, the entire site must come into compliance with Chapter 26.512. If your parcel does not meet any of these thresholds, only fixtures that are being replaced or added must come into compliance with the chapter.

Please scan the QR code or visit aspen.gov for more information.

Residential and Non-residential Lighting Trespass, Seasonal Lighting & Curfew Hours

Lighting Trespass:

- Light trespass is the measurable light that extends beyond the boundary of its intended usage area.
- The updated code now allows enforcement on light that emanates a certain amount beyond the property line.
- Total maximum illumination of interior and exterior lighting sources at any point along the property line must not exceed the requirements listed in Table 1 of Chapter 26.512. If the property line borders a public-right-of way the measurements must be taken from 5 feet beyond the actual property line.
- Light trespass readings will only be taken and enforced upon within the hours of curfew, see below for hours of curfew.
- A property may need to close window shades or turn off or dim lights to meet the trespass requirements during hours of curfew.
- A property may need to close window shades, turn off, or dim lights to meet the trespass requirements during hours of curfew. Possible violations are reported on a complaint basis only. Visit Aspen 311 Connect to make a complaint or for more information.

Residential and Non-Residential Seasonal Lighting (formerly known as Holiday Lighting):

- Seasonal Lighting is allowed from November 15 to March 1.
- Seasonal lighting is now subject to curfew regulations.
- No lighting is allowed to be directed towards the Roaring Fork River and its tributaries.
- When seasonal lighting is white, it cannot exceed a CCT of 4000K.

Residential and Non-Residential Festoon Lighting:

- Festoon Lighting is string lighting intended for permanent installation and year-round use and is allowed when fully shielded or partially shielded.
- It must be installed over patios, decks, pedestrian plazas, outdoor dining, and other pedestrian walkways where permanent, decorative lighting would be beneficial. Its use is limited to these spaces; it cannot be used to wrap trees or define architectural features.
- It must be within 12 feet of the finished grade or the most adjacent walking surface.
- Seasonal Lighting and Festoon Lighting readings are only taken and enforced upon within the hours of curfew and are subject to the curfew requirements (the same curfew hours as Lighting Trespass).

The curfew hours are as follows:

Residential Uses:
10 p.m. to 7 a.m.

Non-Residential Uses:

Curfew hours of 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. apply to all businesses. If operating hours extend beyond 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., the curfew applies until one hour after closing or one hour before opening. For example, if a business closes at 11 p.m., the curfew for that business is 12 a.m. to 7 a.m. If a business opens at 6 a.m., the curfew for that business is 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.