

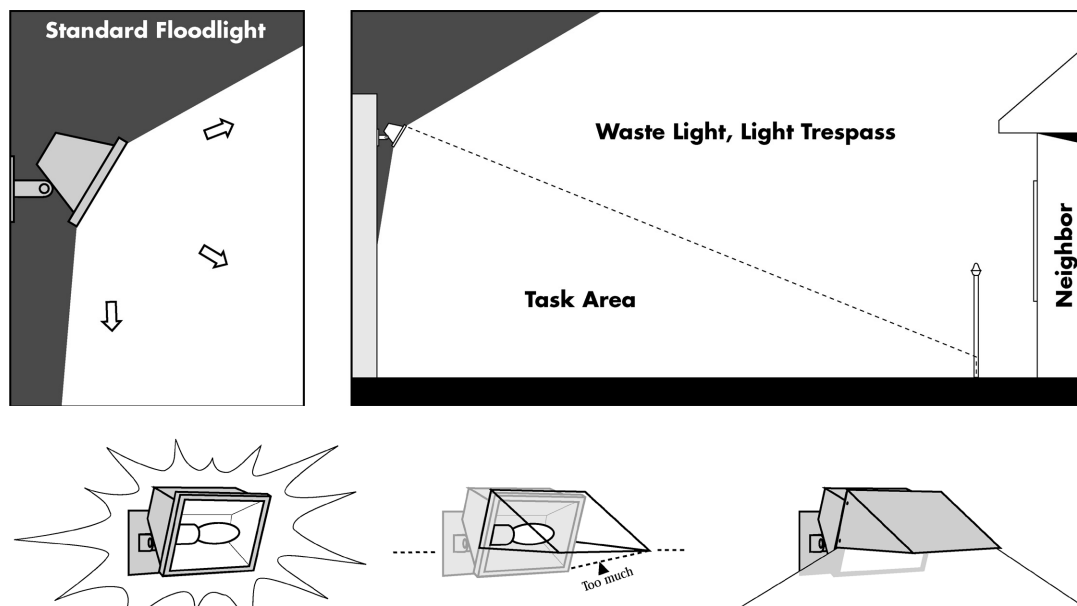
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 International Dark-Sky Association -- Information Sheet 159

Shielding Floodlights

Improving Performance to Prevent Glare, Light Trespass, and Light Pollution

Outdoor floodlights are designed to "broadcast" illumination, to cover as much area as possible. The lack of "light control" in a floodlight causes many detrimental and unwanted side-effects, like: blinding glare, intrusion into neighboring homes and natural areas - called *light trespass*, and waste light up into the night sky - called *light pollution*.



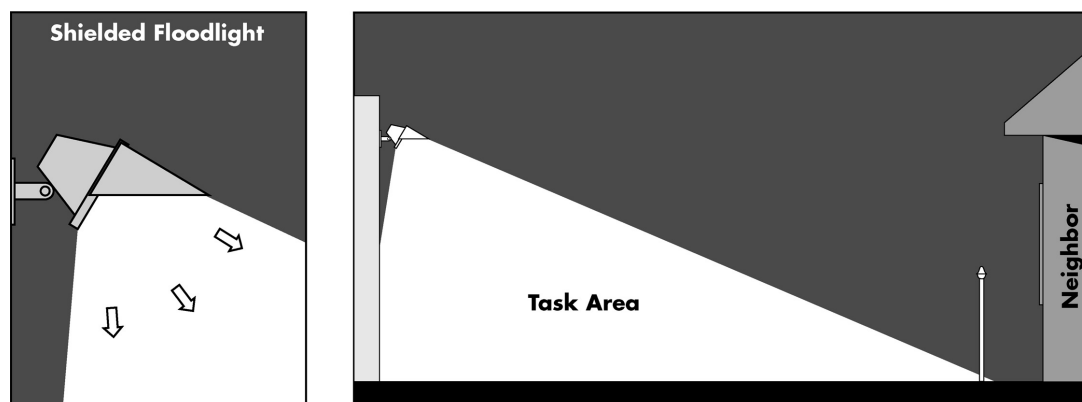
The floodlight's exposed light source (bulb) remains in direct view from most angles - which causes disabling glare. This compromises vision for pedestrians, drivers, or police surveillance. It also disturbs neighbors, disrupts nearby wildlife, and can be visible across great distances.

A three-sides shield can be installed on the floodlight to create a horizontal visor as shown. The visor should just cover the light source completely. This incorporates a "light control" feature to the fixture, allowing more precise and efficient lighting for the task area.

By shielding the distracting glare from the light source, the viewer can actually see the entire area better. The light can be contained within the property area, and kept out of adjacent properties. The light normally lost up into space is now redirected to the intended task area.

Some manufacturers of floodlights offer attachable visor shields. They can also easily be made from flashing aluminum or stainless steel sheet metal. Once the shields are installed, floodlights can be re-aimed at night to properly "tune" the illumination to the property boundary as shown below. Another added benefit from shielding floodlight glare is that it creates a more

visually inviting appearance to an area, instead of a stark, trashy look resembling a prison yard.



NOTE This sheet is intended to describe the best remedy for existing floodlights. For the best performance in new outdoor lighting installations, consider full-cutoff type fixtures instead of floodlights to avoid glare, light trespass, and light pollution.

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