



Dusk To Dawn

Light Up The Neighborhood

Lighting is an effective crime deterrent and certainly provides better visibility for you and your neighbors.

During your Night To Unite gathering, talk to your neighbors and encourage them to use their existing outdoor lighting (front doors, front porches, garages, etc) every night, dusk to dawn. When people use their own lights, it complements large-scale block and neighborhood projects to increase the number of streetlights.

Remember: Lights, like locks, must be used to be effective crime prevention tools.

Cost-Effective Lighting Solutions

- ☆ Consider using compact fluorescents (CFL), light emitting diodes (LED), or other energy-efficient solutions.
- ☆ Install landscape lighting, such as solar lights.
- ☆ Light strings with non-blinking white lights are an inexpensive way of providing a great, non-intrusive glow at night. They can be strung in trees or wherever you feel is best for your home.

Lighting Is A Bright Idea

- ☆ Lighting increases **pedestrian visibility**, makes people feel safer when out walking in their neighborhood, and deters crime—all for pennies a day! It also assists emergency vehicles in locating your home at night.
- ☆ Lighting a 100-watt bulb every night (average of 10 hours/night) costs about seven cents a night (**less than \$26 a year**).

- ☆ Remember that **multiple points of low-level light** are better than one very bright, large-scale light. The goal is ambient lighting that allows you to identify a person from 20 feet away. When we recommend adding lighting, we want to stress that you should not feel like you need to light up your yard in the middle of the night as if it were day time.



Basic Lighting Recommendations

☆ Have a **dawn-to-dusk (photo-sensor) light** on all the main entrance points of your home. This is for your safety as well as to help light the streets and alleys. At night, a lit door is more welcoming than a dark hole. This is a safety concern for crime reasons (so someone cannot lurk there unseen or so neighbors can see if someone is trying to break in your door) as well as for more mundane reasons (for instance, in the middle of winter if there are ice slicks near your entrance, it is best if you know and can accommodate your stride).

☆ **Use covered lights.** Bare light bulbs cause glare. It takes 20 minutes for the human eye to adjust between light and dark. Glare or going from dark to bright spots can make it harder to see. In addition, uncovered lights are easy to compromise by unscrewing the bulb, rendering the light an ineffective crime prevention tool.

☆ Consider **motion detectors** for areas of your yard that do not need to be lit all night. They can deter criminal behavior and, depending on your use, can also alert you or neighbors to activity in an area that shouldn't be in use at that time of night.

☆ Look at your home at night to **eliminate dark spots.** The best way to get an idea of where there may be dark spots in your landscaping and what level of surrounding light is available via streetlights, etc, is to go outside at night and look at your home. Identify areas that may be hidden or dark and consider what solutions you feel work for you.

☆ **Equalize lighting inside and out.** The “fishbowl effect” is common in residential neighborhoods. Often at night it’s light inside the home and dark outside. This makes it very easy for anyone outside to look in your home and see exactly where your valuables are or what you are doing. At the same time, the reflective quality of glass makes it difficult for you to see outside. From the inside on a dark night, windows can be like mirrors. To remedy that, use low-level lighting outside to equalize the lighting inside. Think of commercial areas at night. Pedestrians on the sidewalks can see inside and patrons in restaurants, for example, can easily look out. This is due to ambient lighting inside and out.



For more information about energy efficient lighting solutions and improving your safety and security through lighting, contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 763-593-8058 or police@goldenvalleymn.gov.



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