

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**



How to prevent Artificial light Nuisance

Environmental Protection

Introduction

Artificial light from neighbouring properties can affect people's enjoyment of their homes and become a nuisance. This leaflet contains practical advice about how to reduce nuisances and prevent them.

When a nuisance has an unreasonable effect on people living nearby, action can be taken under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Under this legislation, the Council has a duty to investigate all complaints about nuisances and if we feel that the nuisance constitutes a Statutory Nuisance we will take action.

To be classed as a Statutory Nuisance in terms of the law, it must be clear that the nuisance has a significant impact upon people nearby. When assessing if an alleged nuisance is a Statutory Nuisance we consider a variety of factors including:

- The time(s) at which it happens;
- How often it happens;
- How long it lasts;
- The intensity of the alleged nuisance;
- The location and characteristics of the area where the alleged nuisance takes place.

The matter may also be investigated under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. The behaviour needs to meet three tests before the Council can take further action:

- The behaviour affects the Quality of Life of those in the local area;
- The behaviour is continuous or persistent;
- The behaviour is unreasonable.

Each case is assessed individually and the particular circumstances relating to it are considered.

If you are approached by neighbours complaining about your light, please listen to their concerns and take time to view the problem if relevant. Take all reasonable action to minimise the impact and tell them what you will do to resolve the situation and when you will do it.

If a complaint has been made about you to the Council, where possible, we try to resolve the nuisance activity informally by discussion and negotiation. However, if the Council is satisfied that a Statutory Nuisance exists or the matter is unreasonable, a notice can be served upon the person(s) responsible. Failure to comply with the notice can result in court action. If convicted, the person responsible for the nuisance can face a fine.

For more information please contact the Environmental Protection Team on: 01225 477551, or email Environmental_Protection@bathnes.gov.uk or visit the website www.bathnes.gov.uk

How to avoid causing a light nuisance

Do

- Re-angle or provide partial shading of the light.
- Fit a passive infra-red sensor.
- Use a lower power bulb.
- Talk to your neighbours. If you are experiencing light pollution from your neighbours try to speak to them to resolve the problem, before contacting the council. It might help if you show your neighbour how the light is affecting you from your side of the fence, and suggest that they may be wasting money.

Do not

- Fit unnecessary lights
- Use excessively bright lights, a 150watt tungsten halogen lamp is quite adequate, 300 or 500watt bulbs are too powerful for domestic security lighting.

- Leave lights on when they are not needed; consider controlling lights with passive infra-red detectors, ensuring that they are correctly aligned and installed.

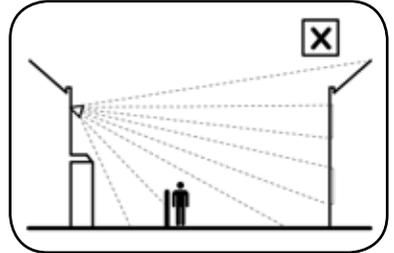
1. Minimise illumination

Outdoor lighting should provide the minimum level of illumination necessary to light your own property.

When aiming artificial lighting, ensure that you only light the area that needs lighting.

Spotlights should be angled down to minimise light being thrown beyond the boundary.

Lights and detectors should be aimed to only detect and light people on your property. They should not detect a person or animal walking down the street. If light is fitted with a timer, this should be adjusted to the minimum setting to reduce the operation of the light.

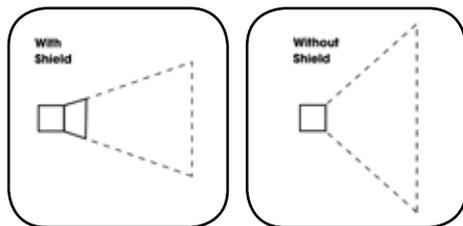


2. Using lower watt bulbs

For many properties, a better solution for security lighting is to use a bulkhead or porch light fitted with a low power 9/11 watt bulb. These units can be left lit all night, providing all night security, for little cost with reduced glare. They are generally mounted lower and are therefore less likely to cause nuisance and give rise to complaints from your neighbours.

3. Using a shield

After adjusting the angle and aim of the light, if it is still causing annoyance, consider fitting a hood or shield to narrow, control and limit the light to the area to be lit.



If you are approached by neighbours complaining about the lighting, please listen to their concerns and take time to view the problem if relevant. Take all reasonable action to minimise light pollution and tell them what you will do to resolve the situation and when you will do it.

For more information please contact Environmental Protection Team on: 01225 477551 or email: environmental_protection@bathnes.gov.uk or visit the website; www.bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East Somerset Council Offices

Opening Hours

Bath

Lewis House
Manvers Street
Bath
BA1 1JG

One Stop Shop Opening hours:

Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

Keynsham Civic Centre

Market Walk,
Keynsham.
BS31 1FS

One Stop Shop Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;
Tuesday 8.30am to 6pm;
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm;
Saturday 9am to 4.30pm

Midsomer Norton

The Hollies,
Midsomer Norton
BA3 2DP

One Stop Shop Opening Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 8.30am to 5pm;
Tuesday 9.30am to 5pm;
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

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