

PROBLEMS WITH LIGHT?

All living things adjust their behaviour according to natural light. The use of artificial light has done much to safeguard and enhance our night-time environment, but if not properly installed, it can become obtrusive and cause annoyance.

LEGISLATION

The Environmental Protection section of Braintree District Council can investigate Light Pollution and assess whether the light is a nuisance under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The Act extends the nuisance provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to cover artificial light emitted from premises - including domestic and commercial security lights, some healthy living and sports facilities and domestic decorative lighting. Some premises are excluded from the legislation such as artificial light from transport facilities, freight depots, lighthouses, prisons and defence premises. Civil action can also be taken by an individual to tackle a lighting problem. He/she would have to be able to prove that a nuisance existed.

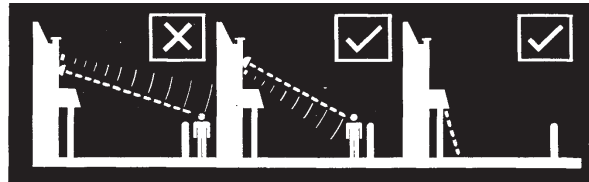
Light nuisance can be substantially reduced without detriment to the purpose for which it was intended as long as consideration is given to neighbouring properties when the installation is undertaken.

This leaflet has been designed to offer advice to those who wish to install lighting as well as those who feel they may be being subjected to a nuisance caused by light.

DOMESTIC SECURITY LIGHTING

Domestic security lighting is the source of most annoyance with light spilling beyond the boundary of the property on which the source is located into neighbouring areas.

Passive infra-red detectors should be installed and aligned so as to only operate the light by movement within the target area.



A 150w tungsten halogen lamp is more than adequate for security purposes, larger lamps, such as 300/500w, create too much light, more glare and darker shadows.

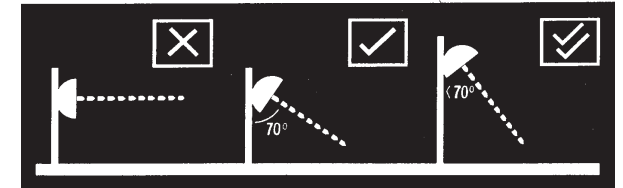
All-night lighting at low brightness is equally acceptable. For a porch light a 9w compact fluorescent lamp is more than adequate in most locations.

GENERAL LIGHTING

Wherever possible light should be directed downwards to illuminate its target, not upwards. If there is no alternative to up-lighting, then the use of shields and baffles will help reduce light spill to a minimum.

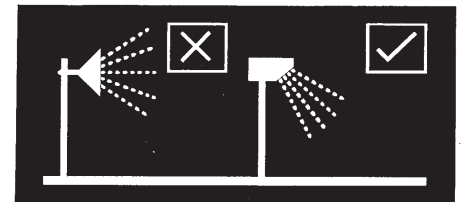
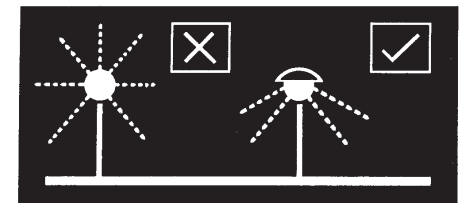


To keep glare to a minimum ensure that the main beam angle of all lights directed towards any potential observer is kept below 70°. It should be noted that the higher the light can be mounted then the lower the angle of the main beam.



Use specifically designed lighting equipment that once installed minimises the spread of light near to or above the horizontal.

Do not 'over' light. It is a cause of annoyance and also a complete waste of money, not only of electricity, but more importantly the earth's finite energy resources which, in many cases, results in unnecessary emissions of greenhouse gases, which should be kept to a minimum.



RESOLVING LIGHT PROBLEMS

Rather than resort to the law, you may wish to try the following:

- † Discuss and resolve the matter directly with the person responsible for the light. (How would you feel if the situation was reversed?) If you need to overcome such a problem you can contact SEAMS, the Mediation Service, to assist. They will arrange for a trained mediator to visit you and the owner of the light source and help you work out a solution, which is agreeable to both of you. Call SEAMS on 01376 331511 for further information.

If the above routes prove unsuccessful or to discuss further, please contact:

**Environmental Protection Team,
Environmental Services,
Braintree District Council,
Causeway House,
Braintree,
Essex. CM7 9HB
Tel: 01376 551414 Ext. 2223
Fax: 01376 557767**



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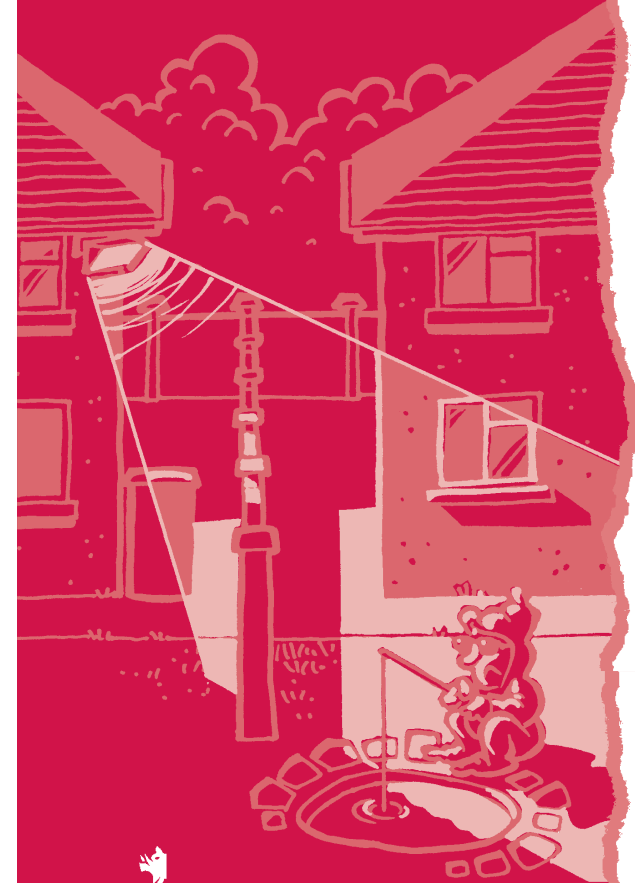
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Braintree
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