

THE DARKER THE BEACH THE BRIGHTER THE FUTURE

**May 1 through
October 31
is sea turtle
nesting season
in Southwest
Florida**



Outside lights must be turned off, shielded, or otherwise modified so that they are not visible from the beach.

Drapes should be closed and interior lamps moved back from the windows. Particular care should be taken with fluorescent lights.

Flashlights, flash photography, fishing lamps, or other transient lighting may not be used on the beach after dark.

Beach furniture and other equipment or toys should be removed from the beach each night or stored in a place far back from the shoreline.

Campfires and motor vehicles are not permitted on the beach.

Please keep pets on a leash while on the beach.

Please "pitch in" and pick up garbage - especially plastic bags and balloons.

**And Besides That,
It's The Law!**

**Sarasota County Ordinance No. 97-082
Florida Statute Chapter 370
US Endangered Species Act, 1973**

**Thank you for helping
to make Sarasota County beaches
turtle friendly**

**For further information contact:
Sarasota County Sea Turtle
Protection Program (941) 861-6210
Mote Marine Laboratory (941) 388-4441
or (800) 691-MOTE**

PHOTO BY ALAN F. REES/ARCHELON



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Sarasota County
Environmental Services

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Beach lighting violations are one of the most common problems encountered during the sea turtle nesting season. Remember lights that directly or indirectly illuminate any part of the beach or dunes are a potential hazard to sea turtles. Coming into compliance does not have to be costly for you or your residents. Listed are possible options to aid you in reducing beach lighting and keeping your home or establishment in compliance with Sarasota County Ordinance No. 97-082, the Sea Turtle Protection Ordinance.

Lights Out

Turn off all non-essential beachfront lighting during the sea turtle nesting season (May 1st through Oct. 31st).

Shielding

Install shields or replace existing fixtures with recessed lights. Apply dark window tinting to windows visible from the beach and draw curtains after dark.

Redirection/Reposition

In some cases simply angling or rotating the light away from the beach may bring the light(s) into compliance.

Low Wattage, Yellow Lights

Low-pressure sodium vapor or yellow incandescent "bug lights" have been shown to affect sea turtles less than other types of light. Many lighted walkways can be just as visible to the residents when they are lighted by soft, yellow lights.

These lights may still require shielding.

Motion Detectors

In areas where public safety requires lights, motion detectors are an ideal method for minimizing their impacts.

Vegetation

Plant or improve vegetation buffers between the light source and the beach. Save your hedge pruning until after the turtle season.

We highly recommend that you conduct your own lighting

inspections. If during a new moon phase you see your shadow when on the beach, then the light is too bright. If you need assistance conducting a lighting inspection of your establishment, please call our office at (941) 861-6210.



PHOTO BY ABDULMAULA HAMZA