

The Darker the Beach The Brighter their Future

LIGHTS OUT FOR SEA TURTLES | APRIL 15 - OCTOBER 31

Every year, hundreds of sea turtle nests are laid on the beaches of Sanibel and Captiva. Sea turtle hatchlings emerge after dark, using the natural light of the night sky over the sea to navigate to the water. Artificial light causes hatchlings to disorient and crawl away from the Gulf toward unnatural light sources. Each year, thousands of hatchlings die in Florida due to man-made lighting along beaches. Please do your part to protect sea turtles by keeping the lights off and our beach dark from **April 15 - October 31**.



You Can Save Sea Turtles

- Turn off or shield ALL lights visible from the beach
- Close curtains or blinds after dark
- Avoid using flashlights and NEVER shine them on a nesting turtle or hatchlings
- No flash photography or cell phone lights after dark
- Remove all beach furniture by 9 p.m. or when not in use
- Fill in holes after your day on the beach
- Give sea turtles plenty of space while they're on the beach—approaching may cause them to abandon their nests and crawl back to the Gulf

Thank you!



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Lighting Ordinance 15-004

Photo by Jeff Waldorff