It’s the Law
Harming and harassing sea turtles is prohibited under The Endangered Species Act and F.S. §379.2431

Solutions
Go out to the beach at night and identify what lights and reflected light on your property are visible from the beach – if the lights cannot be turned off – shield, redirect or lower the height of the lights.

Approved long wavelength, red or amber LED lights are less disruptive and offer an effective solution for the environment. Don’t use outdoor, decorative lighting of any color that is visible from the beach.

Reduce interior lighting by applying window tint (using 15% light transmittance level), or have opaque curtains or blinds and keep them closed after sunset.

For More Information
To report a sick, injured or dead sea turtle or to report someone harassing a sea turtle call (888) 404-3922.

Clearwater Marine Aquarium
www.seewinter.com/sea-turtle-nesting

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) myfwc.com/seaturtle

Sand to Sea Inc. www.sandtoseainc.org

Sea Turtle Conservancy
www.conserveturtles.org/

Sea Turtle Conservancy (Light Fixtures) www.conserveturtles.org/beachfront-lighting-turtle-friendly-fixtures-lights/

Sea Turtle Trackers www.seaturtletrackers.org/home.html

Pinellas County Coastal Management
22211 U.S. Hwy. 19 N., Bldg. 10
Clearwater, FL 33765
(727) 464-4425
email: beaches@pinellascounty.org
www.pinellascounty.org/seaturtles

Sea turtle hatchlings have an innate instinct that leads them in the brightest direction, which is normally bright moonlight reflecting over bodies of water on the open horizon. On average, only 1 in 5,000 hatchlings make it to adulthood.

Watershed where we LiveWorkPlay

Protecting Endangered Sea Turtles
Sea Turtle Nesting Season: May 1–Oct. 31
There’s more you can do to help:

For thousands of years, sea turtles have laid their eggs on our beaches—in darkness. Reflected moonlight and starlight guided them safely back to their home.

It’s an instinct that has helped them survive.

You can help them survive today’s modern beach. It is crucial that occupants and managers of beachfront properties minimize the use of lighting that can be seen from the beach. Bright lights attract turtles inland where they often die of dehydration or are run over by motor vehicles.

Property owners are required to shield, redirect and lower the intensity of indoor and outdoor lighting and use wildlife-friendly amber or red LED bulbs. Turn off all decorative and unnecessary lighting during sea turtle nesting season, May 1 to Oct. 31.

Visit www.pinellascounty.org/seaturtles for more information.

For turtle-friendly beach lighting information, visit www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/sea-turtles/lighting/ or www.myfwc.com/seaturtle

Keep lighting low to the ground, shielded from the beach, and use low wattage, amber LED bulbs.

Keep your curtains closed and use light-blocking window treatments.

Do not enter areas roped off for the protection of sea turtles or nesting birds.

Fill in holes and collapse sand castles which may obstruct a sea turtle’s path to and from the water.

Remove obstacles such as chairs, umbrellas, tents or boats on the beach at night which obstruct a sea turtle wanting to nest, she may go back to the water without nesting.

Do not approach, disturb, shine a flashlight, or use flash photography on sea turtles.

Where permitted, minimize campfire use. Campfires will distract the turtles for miles or lure them into the fire.

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