SKYLIGHTS

OLD AND HISTORIC DISTRICT

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA



BAR Review Levels

These levels of review are applicable in most cases. Please note that during the administrative review process, Staff may determine that a project requires Board review. Contact Staff at 703.746.3833 to confirm which level of review is required for your project. Also, contact Code Administration at 703.746.4200 to confirm building permit requirements.

NO BAR REVIEW

Replacement of existing skylights with flat-profile skylights

ADMINISTRATIVE (STAFF) REVIEW

Installation of new skylights less than 10 square feet in area on non-street-facing sides

BOARD REVIEW

Installation of new skylights on street-facing sides

Introduction

Skylights are used to bring natural light into the interior of a structure. However, they can become visually prominent and may disrupt the historic profile of a roofline. The Board discourages any visual interruption of a historic roof profile caused by skylights.

Guidelines

- o Skylights should be minimally visible from the public right-of-way.
- o The minimum possible amount of historic fabric should be removed when installing skylights.
- o Flashing around skylights should match the color of the roofing material in order to reduce the visual intrusion.
- o The material of skylights should be non-reflective, but may be tinted bronze or gray depending on roofing materials.
- o The Board prefers low or flat profile glass skylights, rather than round or domed skylights.
- Flat profile skylights on flat and low-sloped roofs are considered to be not visible by the Board.

Additional Information

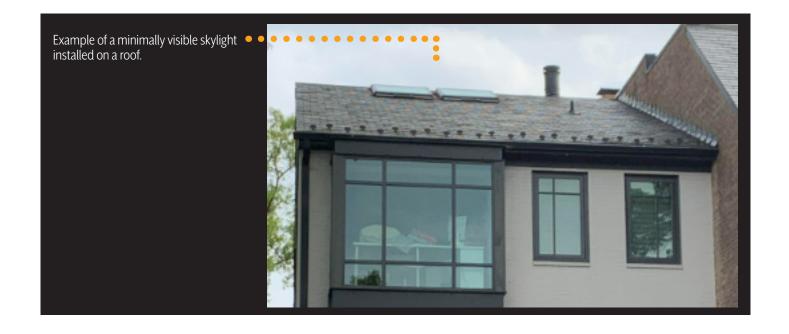
- o Interior shading devices can be used to mitigate light pollution and heat buildup in the house.
- o This chapter applies to solar tubes as well as skylights.

Old and Historic District Amended 07/16/2025

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