

## LANDSCAPE LIGHTING DESIGN TIPS



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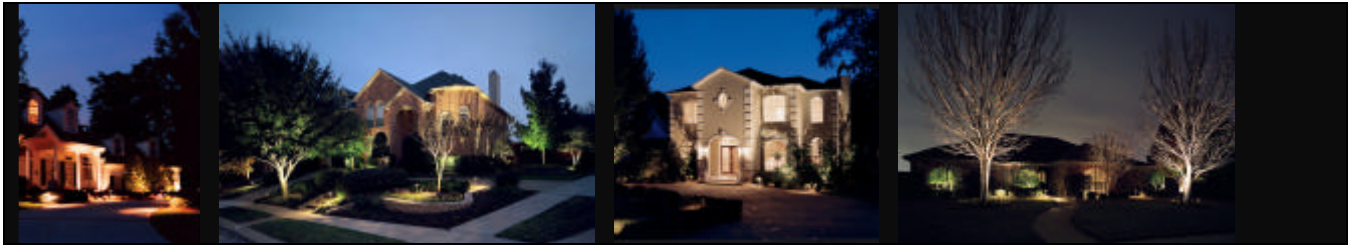
### ***Why should you install landscape lights?***

**SAFETY** – Avoid tripping on steps, pathways and decks.

**SECURITY** – Deter unwanted guests (persons and animals) from your property.

**UTILITY** – Use your outdoor living space after the sun goes down.

**BEAUTY** – Make your home and garden dramatic and beautiful at night.



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### ***What should you light?***

Considering the reasons listed above, take a walk around your property during the day, evening and night.

- Are you concerned about avoiding trips and falls in the dark?
- Do you want to deter unwanted persons or animals at night?
- Is there a part of your home or landscaping that you would like to highlight or dramatize?
- Are you planning to use your outdoor “rooms” for entertainment in the evening or late at night?
- What lighting is already in place (patios, porches, street, doors, garage)?

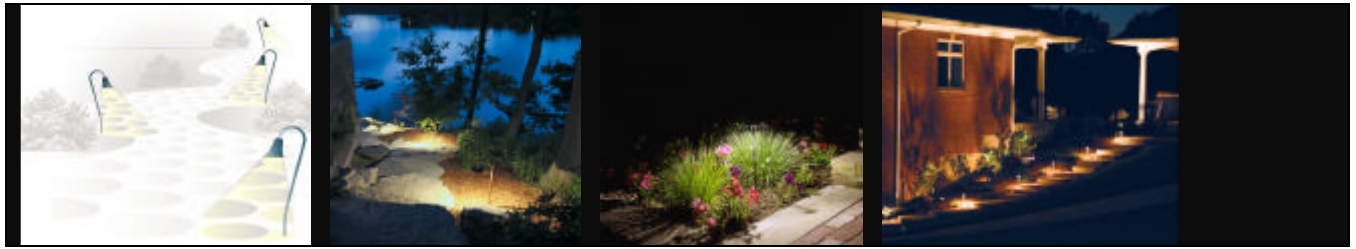
Once you've determined what areas you would like to like light, make a quick sketch of the property including buildings, existing and potential power sources and mark areas to bathe in light. Next, consider the lighting techniques below to determine the kind of lamp and wattage.

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### ***What are common landscape lighting techniques?***

Choose different options from techniques listed below, since layering of different types of lighting adds visual interest to your design. Keep in mind that several fixtures focused on an area from multiple angles can highlight an object with a softer light than a single very bright fixture that casts deep shadows. The Tips from the Pros section below can give you even more suggestions and ideas.

Once you have reviewed these techniques, drive around at night noting how other commercial and residential properties use light to highlight the building and landscaping. Notice how different lighting techniques can create different moods. Once you've determined the type of lighting, add these techniques to your sketch.



### **PATH LIGHTING**

**Typical fixtures:** *mushrooms, tulip lights, lanterns, tier lights, specialty lights*

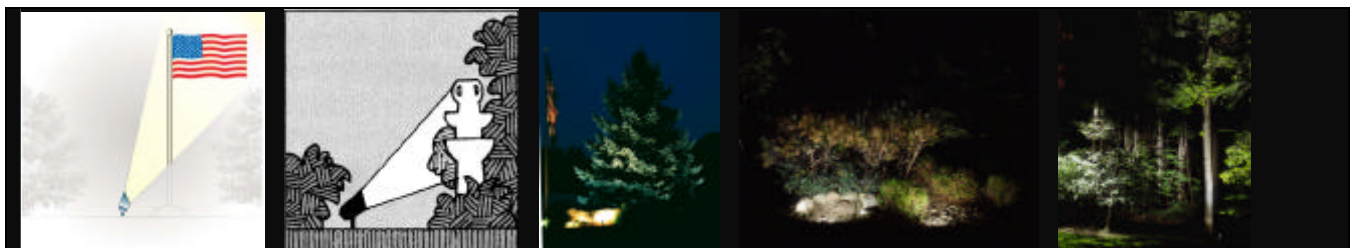
These low impact or shielded lights face down to the ground or paths to add safety, security and visibility for walking. Path landscape lighting evenly and clearly light pathways, walkways and water elements like ponds and waterfalls while avoiding glare. The idea is to create pools of light that you walk in and out of not an airport runway effect. Sometimes, path lighting can be achieved by mounting a fixture behind tall greenery allowing some light to filter onto paths while also illuminating the landscape.



### **STEP LIGHTING / DECK LIGHTING**

**Typical fixtures:** *spot/accent lights, specialty lights*

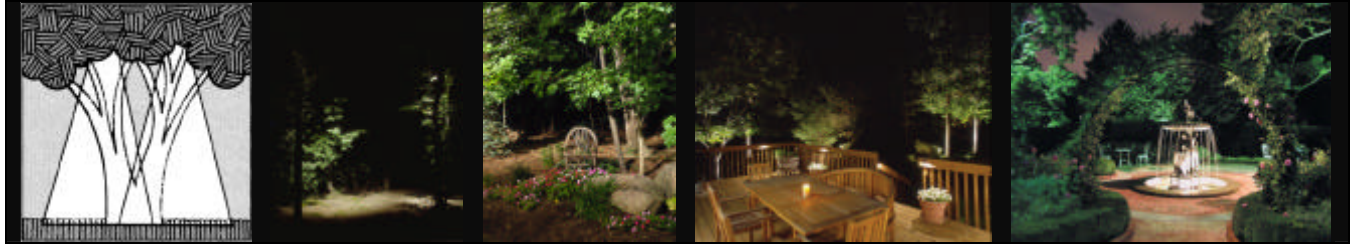
Bring your deck to life at night and help guests navigate stairs safely with specialized step and deck lighting. Fixtures can be installed beneath benches, as recessed lights in the risers of steps, and as surface lights on vertical posts and below railings.



### **TREE LIGHTING / UPLIGHTING / DOWNLIGHTING**

**Typical fixtures:** *spot/accent lights, floodlights, well lights, specialty lights*

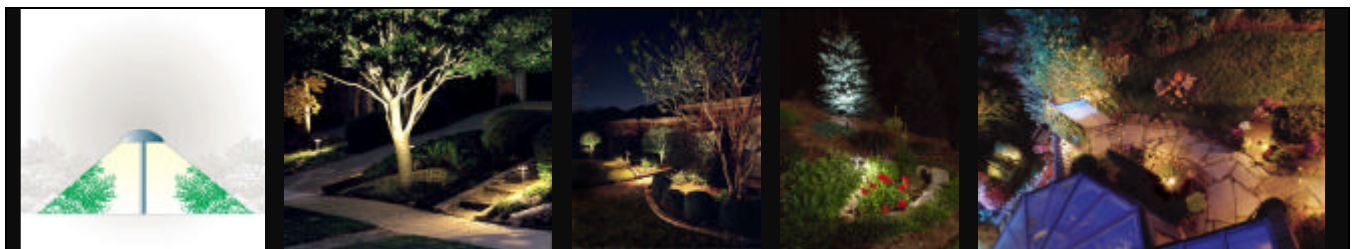
Uplighting is a dramatic way to highlight the beauty of statuary, flags or trees, especially large or flowering types. By lighting trees from two or more directions, your target appears to be 3-dimensional and more lifelike.



**SPOT LIGHTING / DOWNLIGHTING**

*Typical fixtures: floodlights, spot/accent lights*

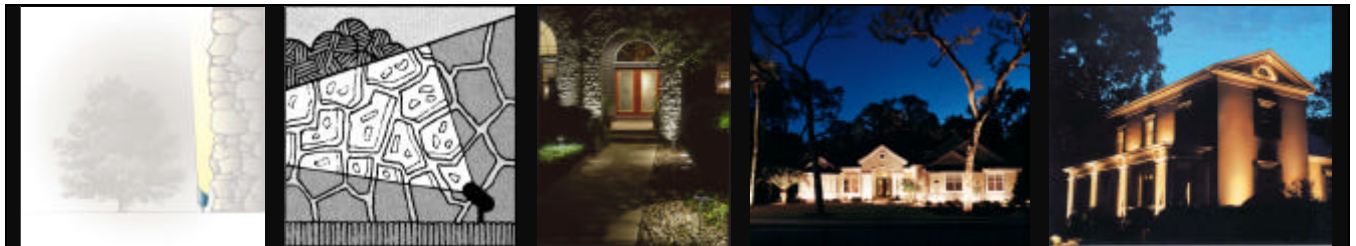
To light large or focused activity areas on decks, lawns, arbors, pools, hot tubs etc. use fixtures that are mounted high on trellises, eaves, gazebos, and mature trees.



**SPREAD LIGHTING**

*Typical fixtures: spreadlights*

Spread lights produce low-level, evenly dispersed, circular patterns of light for illuminating ground cover, flowerbeds and low shrubs. Spread lights are also commonly used underwater for ornamental ponds.



**WALL LIGHTING / WALL WASHING / GRAZING**

*Typical fixtures: well lights, spot/accent lights, wall wash lights*

Enhance the structural elements of your home by bathing a wall, chimney or fence with light. In winter months, textured wall surfaces can distract from bare branches of deciduous trees and shrubbery. By positioning a fixture within six to eight inches of a facade and aiming it almost 90 degrees vertically you can dramatically light stone or brick retaining walls, large tree trunks, privacy fences, building facades, chimneys or other large features that have a textured surface.

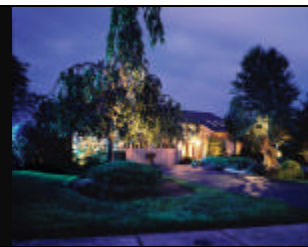
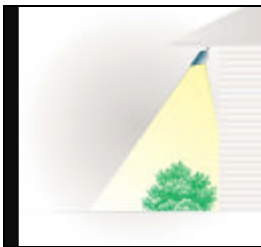
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### **MOON LIGHTING**

**Typical fixtures:** *floodlights, spot/accent lights, well lights*

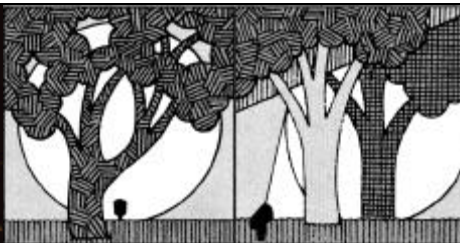
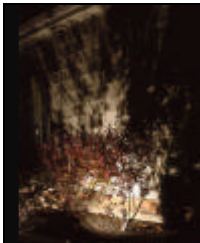
By placing a fixture high in a mature tree or on a nearby wall and aiming it downward through the branches, you can recreate the serene appearance of moonlight filtering through tree branches onto the ground below.



### **SECURITY LIGHTING**

**Typical fixtures:** *floodlights, spot/accent lights, wall wash lights*

Security lighting can act as a deterrent against crime and unwanted pests. Illuminate potential areas where intruders can hide by positioning a combination of low-level lighting or spotlighting lighting.



### **SHADOWING / SILHOUETTING**

**Typical fixtures:** *well lights, spot/accent lights, wall wash lights*

A tree, plant or statue that has a unique structure can project an appealing shadow onto a wall if thoughtfully lit. Place the fixture directly in front of the subject and aim the light through it. To enlarge and dramatize the shadow, place the fixture closer.

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## ***What fixtures should I use?***

Now that you've selected what you want to highlight in your landscape, the fun has really begun! Now it's time to decide the type of fixture and placement. Notice that each technique above lists common fixture types associated with that affect. Once you've decided on the type, then you can select the style of fixture and lamp. Keep these factors in mind:

- Group your light fixtures into clusters of 2 to 6 with no more than 240 Watts per cluster.

- Conceal the fixture so that it is not visible.
- Gently highlight your target, don't over light it.
- Use photocells or timers to turn your lights off and on.
- Reduce glare and don't aim lights at your neighbors.

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### ***Design Tips from the Pros***

- To reduce shadowing when downlighting, overlap your fixtures' spread of illumination ("circle of light").
- Use fixtures with proper shielding to reduce glare and fixture visibility. When designing spread lighting, fully-shielded fixtures work best to produce glare-free landscape lighting. Partially shielded fixtures can be installed in taller, deeper shrubbery where the extra emitted can also backlight foliage.
- When spotlighting or highlighting a tree or architectural interest, use 2-3 fixtures at different angles instead of one high wattage fixture. This reduces glare and softens the overall light.
- Use the effects of voltage drop to your advantage! When designing your layout, intentionally place low light areas at the end of a cable run where they will naturally be dimmer due to voltage drop.
- You are more likely to add lights rather than delete lights so buy a transformer that has 20% capacity leftover – just in case!
- Mix your lighting techniques to include uplighting, pathlighting, moonlighting, downlighting and wall washing.
- Use only well lights in your lawn to reduce damage from lawnmowers, fertilizers and watering systems. Install spotlights and floodlights in planter areas. However, well lights should not be used for fast growing trees as they are difficult to move. As an alternative, adjustable fixtures can be concealed in shrubbery and be realigned as the trees and plants age.
- Exterior lighting visually expands the interior rooms of a residence. Without outside lighting, windows reflect interior lights, making the space seem smaller. When you can see the outside at night, the space expands to include the outside and you no longer feel as if you are in a goldfish bowl.
- The cable lengths in your design will determine many further aspects of your lighting system. You want a cable wire that will deliver the best voltage to each individual fixture, and the best method for selecting this cable begins with a layout of your project. Be sure to include all landscape features, buildings, individual light fixtures, and power supplies in your drawing.
- When uplighting trees that have heavy foliage, place fixtures outside of the tree drip-line. Lightly foliated and flowering trees are highlighted best if the fixture is installed close to the trunk.
- Use blue filters for moonlighting to give a more realistic appearance.
- Use uplighting to illuminate the tree from below as well for a more sophisticated and 3-dimensional effect.