

CHOOSE AND INSTALL LANDSCAPE LIGHTING

Skill Level: INTERMEDIATE Give these projects a try if you're a confident DIYer with a good working knowledge of a variety of tools. They can take a day or more to complete. If you can build a birdhouse or install a ceiling fan, your skill level is probably appropriate.

✓ MATERIALS

- Lights
- Power Pack
- Connector Assemblies
- 12-Gauge Cable—if your system is more than 200 watts
- 16-Gauge Cable—if your system is less than 200 watts
- Flat-blade Shovel or Edger
- Wire Cutters
- Wire Strippers
- Screwdriver
- Work Gloves
- Wooden Post—optional, for mounting power pack

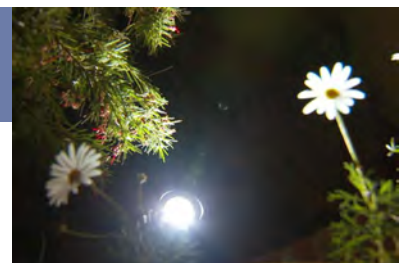
A great landscape can add pleasant curb appeal to any home. But did you ever think about showing off your beautiful yard at night? With landscape lighting, you'll give your home and yard a luminous glow and catch the attention of anyone passing by. And it can provide safety at night. Best of all, landscape lighting is easy to install and economical to operate.



PLANNING

01 Determine what types of lights you will use.

- Path lights and entrance lights illuminate walkways or driveways.
- Tier lights are commonly used like path lights to illuminate walkways.
 - Remove the tops to highlight hedges and shrubs.
- Spotlights, uplights and downlights provide strong highlights on trees, statues and other large focal points.
- Well lights lay nearly flush to the ground and direct light up and out to accent trees, shrubbery and buildings.
- Deck or patio lights can accent railings.
- Brick lights can highlight steps.



02 Sketch your plan.

- Draw a bird's-eye view of your yard including key features like trees, walls, driveways, deck, patios and gardens.
- Plot where each fixture will be positioned as you test for placement.



IMPORTANT

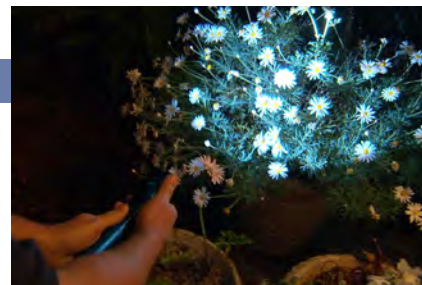
Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when installing a landscape lighting system. If you're not confident working with electricity, contact a professional. And check local building codes as well.

Before you dig, have a professional mark the location of any electrical or natural gas lines. By dialing 811, you'll be connected to your local utility company for assistance.

PLANNING (cont.)

03 Test the placement of your lights.

- Have a friend shine a flashlight on objects that you think you will light.
- A flashlight that has spot and floodlight settings works best.
- Make note of what type of lighting looks best in each location, and what angle accents the area well. Also consider if the light will shine through a neighbor's window.



04 Choose solar or low-voltage lighting.

- Solar lighting is good for aesthetic purposes. These lights install almost instantly with no wiring because they run off their own power; however, they use a battery that needs to be replaced about once a year.
- Low-voltage lighting works great for safety and security. These lights are brighter than solar lights and they don't rely on sunlight for power.
 - Typically, it's not mandatory to bury low-voltage cable, but you'll need to where: you can't cover it with mulch or tree bark; you can accidentally trip on it or cut it with maintenance equipment; or children can have access to it.
- **SAFETY TIP:** Before you dig, have a professional mark the location of any electrical or gas lines. By dialing 811, you'll be connected to your local utility company for assistance.
- High-voltage lighting is used for commercial purposes and should only be installed by a professional.

05 Lighting kits vs. Custom systems

- Lighting kits are a simple way to get started on your landscape lighting project.
 - They usually include several types of lights, cable, connectors and controls to support the system.
- All components are also available separately so you can customize your project to suit your yard.

06 Determine what size power pack to use for your system.

- Add up the total wattage of your lights.
- The total wattage should be 70-100% of the power pack rating. Ask a Lowe's associate which power pack will work best for your project.

INSTALLATION

01 Locate a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet on the outside of your house.

- A GFCI outlet provides extra shock protection in areas of high moisture.
- The GFCI outlet should be at least 12-18" above the ground and have a waterproof cover.
- Contact a licensed electrician if you don't have a GFCI outside your home.



02 Attach the power pack near the GFCI.

- You can attach the power pack on a pole or on the house.
- Do not use extension cords.
- Do not mount the power pack in your garage or home.

INSTALLATION (cont.)

- 03 If applicable, mount the light sensor.
- 04 Assemble the lighting fixtures according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- 05 Place the lights at their final locations following your plan.
- 06 If you're going to bury the cable, beginning at the control box, cut a narrow trench about 3" deep along the cable path with a flat-blade shovel or edger.
- 07 Make a perpendicular slit from that path to where the lights will be positioned in the ground.
- 08 Lay out the cable.
- 09 Connect each light to the cable following the manufacturer's direction.
Typical connection steps are as follows.
 1. Snap the wire guide on the cable.
 2. Slide the wire and guide into the bottom connector cap.
 3. Secure the knurled connector until the cable is seated.
- 10 Push each light fixture about halfway into the ground to temporarily mark its position.
- 11 Push the cable into the trench.
- 12 Connect the cable to the power pack.
 - Follow the manufacturer's instructions if you need to strip any insulation off the cable. Most require that you strip 3/4" of insulation.
- 13 Plug the power pack into the GFCI outlet.
- 14 Set the power pack to ON.



INSTALLATION (cont.)

15 Make sure all the lights are working properly.

- If any lights aren't working, turn off the power and check the connections.

16 Finish pushing the fixtures into the ground.

17 Adjust the focus of all the lights.

- You might have to do this at night.

18 Close the trenches.

19 Set the controls for automatic on and off times.



With landscape lighting, your home will have a pleasant nighttime glow. For more home improvement projects, visit [Lowes.com/Videos](https://www.lowes.com/Videos).



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