

# Lazerwebsites.com Newsletter

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Author - Richard Patrick | February 2018

## Exterior Entry Lighting / Landscape Lighting

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landscape\\_lighting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landscape_lighting)

Landscape lighting or garden lighting refers to the use of outdoor illumination of private gardens and public landscapes; for the enhancement and purposes of safety, nighttime aesthetics, accessibility, security, recreation and sports, and social and event uses. (Wikipedia)

Drive down a street in most residential neighborhoods and you will see that one house; the one with a subtle, yet stunning landscape lighting scheme or fabulous well-lit walkway and entry way - which looks so inviting.

Generally, these amazing lighting effects are just not accidental by any stretch. They are designed for function and aesthetic and generally are well worth the investment. The best way to start a project like this is to consider your total budget and the areas you want or need to improve.

The first and least expensive area to improve is your front door entrance way and walkway to your entrance.

The first thing to get right is the type of lighting you want to use, and then, the placement of that light lantern, or fixture.

There are specific rules for the height of a lamp either beside a doorway or above in the entrance / landing area or porch area. Would one light handle that area? Or would two on either side of the door look and work better? How about adding a third overhead for a cultured, more dramatic look?

Generally, these types of lighting fixtures are “dry-wired” to the electric in your home, this topic is explained a little later in this article. This project is, with the right planning, is economical and does create an improved look that will impress any home buyer and increase your curb appeal and return on your investment (ROI).

Shopping for exterior light fixtures can be overwhelming, lots of styles, purposes, duty, finishes, and now there are more types of custom lights, from spots to low voltage LED lighting which to choose from.

It is best to first determine the style and type of fixtures you want to add to your home before you get started, along with how many “places” that you want to use lights in.

Entrance, walkway, shrub spots, tree wash, lighting, etc. it all can become expensive rather quickly. Planning a job first - is the best practice, first choose the area you want to enhance and or landscaping to include, then research the types of lighting available - online - before you go to the store - and doing this will help you stay within your budget too.

The rule of thumb is to obtain lighting that enhances and casts a wide swath of light onto your subject area(s).

Keep in mind to start at the entrance and work out to include dark areas and dark corners that lighting would improve and would provide a warm feeling if even dimly lit.

Next check to see what type of fixtures would “work” in the entrance areas. Any lights or fixtures that you wish to use should be rated by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and state plainly on the box and even the electric chord, that this part or fixture is rated by UL.

That rating also indicates where the specific type of fixture can be used. Dry-rated lights should not be exposed to excessive moisture and should not be used in an outdoor environment. Some fixtures are “damp and or wet-rated”.

The difference between the two is in the construction. UL-rated fixtures for damp and wet locations use specific drain holes, use more reliable seals and protective gaskets to prevent water from seeping in to the live wires and other electrical components.

Select the right UL fixture rating based upon the areas level of vulnerability to moisture penetration into the fixture.

**Damp-rated:** Good for covered entrance areas that are protected from dew, rain storms or from any other source of excessive moisture, including salt air.

**Wet-rated:** Required around doors and entrance ways that are completely open to the elements, including rain, snow, fog, mist or salt air that can get into or penetrate the fixture.

## **Landscape Lighting**

So, you’ve spent a bundle on gorgeous landscaping and a beautiful walkway with shrubs, trees and brickwork, now what?

To enhance a beautiful yard and entrance you would design a lighting scheme to accentuate the look and features that you now have - and take it to another level completely

Show the work and investment that you have put into the design, and bring it out of the darkness and into the light. Properly designed lighting can have an enormous effect on the look and feel of your property and home buyers do consider those enhancements in their decision to purchase a home.

The majority of the available lighting in home stores and electrical lighting stores manufactured for home landscaping are designed as low-voltage systems. They are safer all the way around, additionally, they are less expensive than 120-volt systems and easier to install.

As the low voltage systems consume just 1/10th (one-tenth) the power of the standard 120 volt systems, their inherent performance is nonetheless remarkable and they are just as good a performer, if not better in some cases, compared to their predecessors.

So, design away to reap the benefits of the aesthetics to ROI if selling your home.

### **Areas to Design**

**Entrance** - front door, porch and step lighting and connecting walkways are at the top of this list.

**Home Facade** - You can use both wash and bullet type of fixtures to accentuate the front of your home. Use bullet lights and point them towards the corners of your house; use the softer wash type of lighting to fill in the open spaces between these features.

**Garden Beds and Shrubbery** - Use most any available lighting fixtures and suggest combining: flood lighting, recessed well lighting, specific bullet for shrubs and bushes, and flood lights.

**Trees** - Use bullet lighting, recessed well lighting, flood lights, and even down lights for a dramatic effect.

**Garden Beds** - Install these lighting fixtures about 15 feet apart from one another if you have that kind of coverage to work with. Use a light fixture on each specific plant or shrub or arrangement. Highlight any other elements that requires lighting such as a statue, a trellis or arbor, use two separate fixtures that both point at the object.

Get inspired to plan and install at minimum, entrance way lighting, both you, your visitors and home buyers will appreciate the work and cost that goes into this project.