

# Landscape Lighting

## Things to Know

Outdoor lighting can have many different purposes, both functional and decorative. Either way it is highly preferable to plan the lighting before landscaping. Very small gardens however can be successful using 12-volt cabling only, as the cable runs will not be long enough to have a problem with voltage drop. In this case, cables and lights can be planned later, cable thrown under decks, bark or shallow buried are totally safe. For larger gardens it is best to run mains voltage to permanent fixtures or to inground or housed transformers from where 12-volt Halogen or LED lights can be run. Be sure to use a registered Electrician. Here are some guidelines to help with the planning process.

### General Outdoor Lighting

These are permanent fixtures and usually mains voltage supplied. Used for driveways, entrances and the outdoor room concept, they include Bollards, Post tops, Lanterns and Bulkhead fittings.

### Installation

It is highly recommended that outdoor lighting fixtures are not installed until the building project, landscaping and finishing are complete. If earlier installation is unavailable ensure that fixtures are carefully wrapped and masked after installation.

### Safety Lighting

Often a mix of mains voltage and extra low voltage lighting fixtures. Security lights with sensors, step lights and path lights for access areas and around the Pool.

### Landscape Lighting

Normally 12-volt lighting fixtures as this allows flexibility for change when gardens mature or are re-planted. Mains voltage may be run to an

area transformer, which feeds numerous 12-volt cables. If these cables are left with excess length, the light fitting can be repositioned easily at any time. Landscape lighting fixtures are often not very visible, however they provide highly dramatic effects on shrubs, trees, garden features and building facades.

### Common effects are:

- **Uplighting** Inground lighting onto substantial trees that can be viewed from any direction.
- **Spotlighting** Highlighting of selected garden features using shielded spot lights.
- **Shadowing** Light directed across an object creates texture and provides decorative shadows.
- **Silhouetting** Lighting behind trees and shrubs. Interesting branch structures are dramatic when silhouetted on a wall.
- **Cross Lighting** To display larger areas and soften the shadows use illumination from two or more fixtures.

*Refer to outdoor lighting things to know page (188) For material selection and maintenance guidance*

