



LIGHTING YOUR HOME

Lighting is one of the most important elements to interior design yet it is often overlooked until the last stage of the project.

Interior and exterior features can be enhanced with the proper lighting effects making a huge impact on the appearance, comfort and convenience of a home. By doing some preplanning when building or remodeling your home, you can utilize the functionality of the fixtures that are available to you. This can make a real difference in the usefulness of your lighting investment. Ask our Lighting Consultants to show you some of the techniques available for use to add livability to your home.

Here are some basics that can help you to make informed choices for the area for which you are planning.

- **General Lighting or Ambient Lighting**

This is the basic illumination level of the area. It provides ample lighting for most activities and navigation of the area.

- **Task Lighting**

Task lighting is supplemental to the general lighting level. It provides more intense, area-focused brightness for tasks that demand more visual acuity.

- **Accent Lighting**

Accent lighting is used to highlight artwork or architectural features adding dramatics and emphasizing focal points

- **Safety Lighting**

This type of lighting creates paths of light for safe navigation of steps and obstacles.

- **Security Lighting**

Security lighting acts as a deterrent by creating good exterior illumination activated by motion sensors, photocells or timers.

There are several factors you will want to consider when lighting your home:

- What is the area going to be used for?
- What wall covering colors and textures are you planning on using?
- Where will furnishings be placed?
- What special features would you like to enhance or bring attention to?
- How much light do you and your family members need to utilize the area?

Once you have answered some of these questions, there are a variety of options that you may want to consider to create your desired effect.

Directional lighting in the form of recessed or track lighting comes in various styles and sizes and may be utilized for many different functions. Most common uses include down lighting for general illumination, accent lighting and task lighting but it may also be used to graze or wash a wall with light. Grazing will exaggerate textures bringing life and dramatics to wall treatments such as rock or brick. Wall washing will reduce visual flaws in a wall and make the area seem larger.

Decorative fixtures come in many styles, sizes and types. Chandeliers, pendants, wall and ceiling fixtures can make a huge impact if chosen correctly for proper light output, size and styling to fit the décor indoors or out.

Ceiling fans can add a flare of style while creating a comfortable breeze in the summer and circulating warm air in the winter. Many come with lighting and control options that add to the functionality of these units.

Energy efficient fixtures and bulbs are important considerations with higher energy rates and green living awareness ever more present. Some areas of the home are very easy to adapt to the usage of these products.



Garden lighting is an excellent tool to use, adding enjoyment and usability to the exterior of your home. Illuminating your yard not only adds life to your landscape it also provides security and safety lighting to your property. With the use of low voltage fixtures there are many effects that you can achieve that are very easy to install and maintain. Solar powered lights can create a quick no wiring solution to adding more light to exterior spaces.

Replacing an on/off switch with a dimmer is an inexpensive way to add control and energy savings to your incandescent lighting system. Dimmers are easy to install in new or existing buildings and will extend the life of most light bulbs. Check with our Lighting Consultants for information on dimming fluorescent or low voltage lighting. Handheld remotes and wall controls for ceiling fans can allow you to change speeds and dim the light level without using pull chains.

Choosing the right sized fixture for an area can be an intimidating task. Using the following guidelines can make this process much easier.

Fixture Type	Sizing the Fixture	Hanging Guidelines
<p>Chandelier (Entry or Foyer)</p>	<p>Chandeliers should be sized based on room size. Take the room dimensions and add them together. Example 12' X 15' room = 27'. The chandelier should be about 27" in diameter. For tall ceilings use fixtures that have multiple tiers giving the fixture more body height.</p>	<p>The bottom of fixture should be at least 7' from floor. Hanging fixtures usually look best centered between the top of the door and the ceiling. If there is a window above the door try to center the fixture in the window so that it can be seen from the exterior.</p>
<p>Chandelier (Dining Room)</p>	<p>In a dining area you need to not only think about the room size but also the size of the table that you will use. Use the above sizing guide keeping the maximum diameter at about 12" less than the table diameter. This allows for easy use of the area without the fear of hitting the chandelier.</p>	<p>On an 8' ceiling the bottom of the chandelier should be between 28" and 36" above the table. For each additional foot of ceiling height raise the chandelier by about 4".</p>
<p>Wall Lights (Living Areas)</p>	<p>Size wall sconces by the width and height of the wall. In most cases, for 8-9 foot ceilings use sconces that are wider than they are tall. For taller ceilings choose sconces that have more height than width.</p>	<p>Mount approximately 60" from the floor. Consider the size of the fixture and where it mounts to the electrical box to get a mounting height that looks good.</p>
<p>Wall Lights (Bath Room)</p>	<p>The best bath lighting gives you light from different angles (i.e. over the mirror and on both sides). When side lights are not an option, use fixtures that are sized just slightly smaller than the mirror and have multiple light bulbs. For two sink vanities, plan for one fixture over each sink.</p>	<p>Mounting height for lights mounted over a vanity area is usually 78" and centered over the sink. Side lights are mounted at about 60" high. Make special accommodations for decorative mirrors or medicine cabinets that may be used in the room</p>