



Tip of the Week



Light up the night

Now that we've set the clocks back, we really do notice that the nights are long and for several weeks, getting longer. While we're aware of the darkness, it's a good time to look outdoors and think about strategic places to light up the night.

Landscape lighting offers many stunning effects, but it also offers very practical value. Well-lit homes are less likely to be burglarized. Well-lit walks and stairs help prevent tripping and injuries. And lighted outdoor living areas extend their enjoyment long after sundown throughout the year.

Lighting up the outdoors also brings good value since low-voltage LED--light-emitting diode, electronic technology is up to 80% more energy efficient than the incandescent counterparts. Due to superior optics, it also offers more consistent, crisp and clear light than traditional lighting.

LED burns about 40,000 hours--which translates into 15 to 20 years of light. That means there are no bulbs burning out that need to be changed on a regular basis. Once installed, a complete landscape lighting system should last 12-15 years.

On the front end, LED technology is more expensive to install than incandescent, but these costs will be recovered via:

- Smaller transformers and wire sizes with LED technology that help cut ongoing costs and energy consumption
- Energy costs running 65-75% less than incandescent lighting

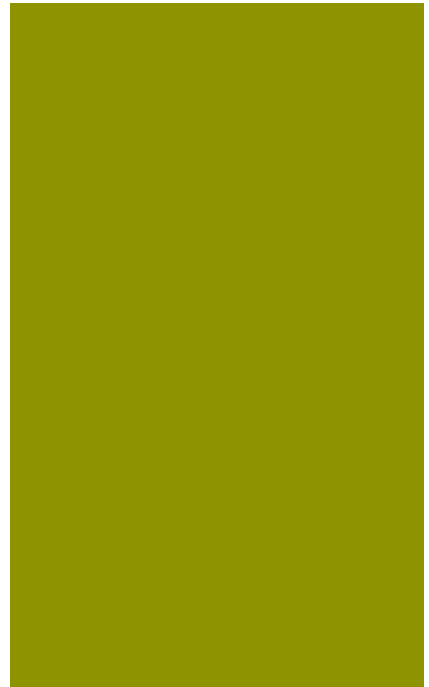
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- No bulb replacements for ongoing cost savings and efficiency of effort.

Something to consider. Fall is not only a good time to see where you could light up the night around your home. It is also a good time of year to have night lighting installed as it can be done as long as the ground is not frozen. The designer needs to see your landscape at night to design the best system for your property. And after it's installed, the final tweaking and adjustments must also be made after dark. This is one time when darkness falling early works to everyone's advantage.

Need help finding a landscape lighting contractor or for other landscape needs? Go to www.alcc.com and click on ***Find a Pro!***

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