

Five Reasons Your Home Needs Landscape Lighting

Landscape lighting – is it a luxury reserved for the million dollar mansion, or will any home reap the rewards of lighting the landscape?

Any home will do just fine (not to mention benefit greatly!) Landscape lighting can help any home by adding a level of security, safety and aesthetics. So, to shed a little light on the subject, let's first discuss the top five reasons to add landscape lights to your home.

1. Safety first!

As they say, better safe than sorry. The safety of your family and guests is paramount. Landscape lighting can be used to guide them to paved pathways and away from the koi pond. A porch light may be well-intentioned, but it doesn't have much reach beyond the immediate area. Not to mention that it can have your porch looking like a used-car lot to generate the light needed to navigate a walkway.

Using a combination of uplighting and accent lighting, you can be sure that guests and family can safely walk around your property without the risk of scraped knees or worse.

2. Shedding Light on Security

A motion sensing light is the very basic premise of security lighting, but it doesn't help as an actual deterrent. Burglars will be sure to give your home a wide berth if you have well-placed illumination throughout the yard.

While you may assume brighter is better, this isn't the case for security landscape lighting, as the bright lights create too many shadows to be truly effective. The best combination of lighting for security and deterrence is well placed, low level lighting throughout the landscape.

3. Enhancing Curb Appeal & Adding Value

Curb appeal is literally how appealing your home is from the street. It can make or break a home in terms of appealing to a potential buyer. As any real estate agent can tell you, a home with an attractive curb appeal can take a home on the market from a 'drive-by' to a 'must-see'. You can create that 'must see' home by using both nighttime lighting and landscape lighting.

Nighttime lighting can add depth to a home's appearance and make it easier to see. Landscape lighting adds more bang for the buck than many outdoor improvements. When it comes to landscape lighting, a little investment can go a long way to adding value to a home. In fact, it's estimated that increasing curb appeal can result in a return of nearly 100% of the money invested in a higher home value or selling price.

4. Taking the Inside Out

Outdoor living has become the hot trend of the 21st Century. Taking the inside outside by using furnishings, rugs and even outdoor kitchens has been a trend that will continue to have staying power.

With outdoor lifestyles comes the need for outdoor lighting, as the harsh deck light just does not suffice to get the look you're longing for - not to mention the task lighting necessary to cook and eat in well-lit style.

5. Increasing & Enhancing Entertaining Spaces

There's nothing like a perfectly lit room to set the tone of any gathering and landscape lighting will do just that. It begins as your guests drive up your drive and ushers them down the walkway. Then on those beautiful summer nights, your back deck, patio or pier beckons them outside with their beautiful and inviting illumination and shadow.

Landscape Lighting Alternatives

The possibilities and choices in landscape lighting have increased, thankfully, and no longer are we relegated to the high voltage commercial-style systems of the past. Low voltage landscape lighting has become the residential lighting choice.

In the past few years, solar landscape lights have hit the market, while we expect to see improvements, as of now they are just not offering the visibility and quality that are needed for a proper outdoor lighting design. In fact, many solar outdoor lights do not last beyond a few months, and what about lighting up the areas that don't get the sun needed to power them?

LED landscape lighting to the rescue! Offering homeowners the energy efficiency they are looking for and the lighting levels necessary for beautiful form and function. LED lights are taking outdoor lighting by storm. With the improved quality of LED technology, the output now rivals and in some cases outshines the traditional light bulb output.

In terms of energy efficiency, LED landscape lighting saves nearly 75% on your electric costs over traditional outdoor lighting. The initial investment is slightly higher, but the reduced energy bills and maintenance make this outdoor lighting choice pay off in the long run.

Traditional System		LED System
\$762.50	Fixtures	\$1412.50
\$1070.00	Transformer and Wire	\$647.50
\$1560.00	Replacement of lamps as they burn out (at today's rates)	\$0.00
\$1402.16	Electricity (at today's rates) Average Annual Usage	\$330.74
\$4794.66	Total	\$2390.74

LED architectural and landscape lighting also gains the bragging rights of being low maintenance, as they last an average of 15 years before needing to be changed, greatly reducing operating costs.

What Can LED Technology Do for Your Outdoor Lighting?

LED (light emitting diode) landscape lighting offers many benefits for home and industrial outdoor lighting, including cost efficiency, environmental benefits and more versatility than traditional incandescent outdoor lighting. But how can all this be contained in one little diode?

Instead of emitting light from a vacuum, as in an incandescent bulb, or a gas, as in a CFL fluorescent bulb, an LED emits light from a piece of solid matter, a semiconductor. This allows not only a smaller bulb, but a smaller, low profile fixture for outdoor lighting.

An LED produces light when electrons are energized and then are able to recombine with electron holes within the semiconductor structure. The electrons then release energy in the form of Photons. Photons are the most basic component in light that are produced.

What does it all mean? It means that LED technology can now provide the quality lighting that we've been waiting for. At Atlantic, we've eagerly awaited technological advancements so that we were comfortable recommending and installing the LED systems. Finally in 2008, the technology met with our company's quality standards. Since then, we've install LED lights in hundreds of homes and commercial establishments and each year, the technology, diodes and fixtures get better and better.

Leaving it to the Professionals

If you were to purchase an LED outdoor light at a retail store, you would be disappointed. The technology outlined above is not found at the retail level. It is, however, available to the professionals within the lighting and landscaping industry. Not only will you be able to get the best and brightest of landscaping lighting, but a truly professional design which will address all your safety and security as well as aesthetic needs.

The sign of a professional design and layout is that only the effects of the lighting is seen, not the fixtures themselves, unless the fixtures are meant to be seen as a design element.

Low-voltage lighting also allows the professional to install lighting that minimizes excessive light noise that can disturb neighbors. Louvers can also be added to the front of the fixture to hide hot spots and reduce glare so that light only goes specifically where it's needed. In addition, our professional designs and installations:

- Provide ambient lighting by strategically placed uplighting
- Provide targeted light from down lighting and moonlighting
- Provide dramatic accents with silhouette lighting paired with specific design elements
- Uses LED technology for lower energy use and increased annual electrical cost savings

The landscape lighting pros at Atlantic Lighting & Irrigation can best advise you on which options are best for your situation. For instance, the entryway lighting focuses on style, size and color based on the theme you want to project. But with lighting landscape applications, seeing what the fixture does at night is more important than seeing the style or fixture in the light of day.

Whether you want the eco-friendly LED lighting system or a conventional lighting system, Atlantic will work with you to achieve the look and function you need whether it's at your home or business. We'd be happy to provide a complimentary consultation, just give us a call at 888-771-4070.

About Atlantic Lighting & Irrigation

Atlantic Lighting & Irrigation has been installing, repairing and servicing low voltage landscape lighting systems for well over 20 years now. Our experience ranges from small private residences, large estates, community entrances and commercial buildings.

We pride ourselves in staying on the cutting edge of landscape lighting advancements. We are always educating ourselves with training, updating our certifications and getting any new staff fully certified. You'll find us to be one of the most experienced and highly certified firms in the State.

We welcome your call whether it's a question, need for service or repair, an inquiry about designing or installing an irrigation, or lighting, system. We'd be honored to put our experience to work for you. Call us at 888-771-4070.