

JOYCE LANDSCAPING

# Landscaping: Lighting up the night

By Christopher Joyce

Homeowners are looking for ways to get more enjoyment out of their backyard living spaces. One of the easiest, most economical (and least invasive) ways to make the fun last longer into the night is through quality outdoor lighting. With path lights, spotlights, step lights, deck lights, accent lights and a wide array of specialty lights available, a unique night-time masterpiece can be designed for any yard or place of business.

For many homeowners, their landscape is both expensive and time-consuming to maintain. Why not extend your time outdoors to enjoy and protect what you have worked so hard to establish?

Consider any of these possibilities:

- A garden layout and winding path with lights that accent specific plants and shrubbery, while saving money on your home's utility bill.
- Low-voltage lights on flowering trees, or your garden's water feature.
- Your deck edges framed with niche lighting.
- Expand your home living space by lighting an outdoor kitchen, pool or patio.

Outdoor lighting will extend the quality of time you can enjoy in your own backyard.

The most popular application of low-voltage landscape lighting is the "up-light." This technique aims light directly at an object that the home or business owner wishes to exhibit in the dark. In addition to up-lighting, down-lighting has become increasingly popular. Down-lighting is a practice by which a fixture is mounted in a tree and shines down onto a patio or parking court to simulate a moonlit sky. The effect is a soft light that subtly highlights areas for ambiance as well as safety.

Proper lighting not only adds beauty, but also safety and security. Some insurance companies reduce home insurance rates for homeowners who install security lighting.

Whether the property is a second home or full-time residence, every property can benefit from additional security. Additionally, low-voltage landscape lighting is proven to add to property value. Realtors have now begun to add night lighting pictures into their sales packets to further showcase homes and businesses for sale.

For a small investment of both time and money, a home or business owner can make their property more beautiful, more secure and more desirable for themselves, their guests, as well as potential buyers or patrons.

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