Outdoor Lighting Buying Guide

Outdoor lighting enhances the exterior of homes and illuminates dark exterior settings. This guide is not intended to take the place of a professional's best opinion or serve as a technical manual. It is meant only as an overview, and outdoor lighting fixtures can be powered in various ways. Low voltage (12 volts) outdoor lighting systems are more energy efficient and easier to install than high voltage systems. Pros: Safer than high voltage systems, more energy efficient, easier to install and adjust. Cons: Requires compatible low voltage equipment (transformer, electrical cable). Each system possesses unique benefits and deterrents.

Outdoor lighting fixtures can be powered in various ways. Low voltage (12 volts) outdoor lighting systems are more energy efficient and easier to install than high voltage systems. High Voltage systems are traditional and work with the wire you already have. They are more popular but less energy efficient. Cons: Less energy efficient, difficult to install, high operating costs. Fluorescent bulbs are the most energy efficient choice. Cons: Need to be replaced often, use the most energy. Incandescent bulbs are the most popular choice for outdoor fixtures. Pros: Most popular choice for outdoor fixtures, candle-flame appearance, inexpensive. Outdoor lighting fixtures are commonly compatible with one of three types of light bulbs: incandescent, LED, or fluorescent.

Outdoor lighting fixtures are crafted from a variety of durable materials including metals and marine-grade plastics. Since these fixtures are exposed to outdoor elements continuously, they are commonly treated with UV-resistant finishes. Outdoor lighting fixtures are crafted from a variety of durable materials including metals and marine-grade plastics. Since these fixtures are exposed to outdoor elements continuously, they are commonly treated with UV-resistant finishes.

The Bulb
- Incandescent
  - Pros: Most popular choice for outdoor fixtures, candle-flame appearance, inexpensive
  - Cons: Need to be replaced often, use the most energy
- Fluorescent
  - Pros: The most energy efficient choice
  - Cons: Need to be replaced often, use the most energy
- LED
  - Pros: A new technology that is energy efficient and long lasting
  - Cons: More expensive than incandescent and fluorescent bulbs

The Fixture
- The Glass Holder
- The Glass Panel
- The Finial
- The Weather Resistant Finish
- The Wet Location Rating
- The UL Damp Location Rating
- The UL Listed
- The Mounting Height
- The Durable Marine Grade Resin or Solid Aluminum Fixtures
- The Outdoor Environment
- The LED Bulb
- The UL Listed

Outdoor lighting categories include:
- Post Lights
- Wall Lights
- Path Lights
- Step Lights
- Landscape Lighting
- Security and Flood Lights
- Sensor Lights
- Motion Sensors
- Timers
- Light Bulbs
- Glass Holder
- Glass Panel
- Finial
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- Outdoor Lighting Fixtures
- Outdoor Lighting Excuses
- Outdoor Lighting Myths
- Outdoor Lighting Common Questions
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