



Let There Be Light

Who wouldn't want an artfully lit landscape on a warm Michigan summer night? Buying and installing lights is not incredibly difficult or expensive, knowing which fixtures to buy and what to light is the secret. A well-lit home is safer and more secure than an unlit home. Use the tips below so your lighting will be both functional and aesthetically pleasing:

Who are the lights for? Do you simply want your house to look pretty for others passing by or do you actually do things outside at night? For example, strong beams on a driveway basketball court can add hours of post-dusk fun.

Consider the source. The goal is to see the landscape features, not the light source that is shining. Be sure to purchase lights that can handle hard Michigan winters. LED lights require less electricity; however they do not get hot enough to melt the spring snow around them.

Flashlight plan. Use a "big" flashlight to test out ideas and sketch an accent lighting plan.

- * **Uplighting.** Do you have specific architectural features such as an archway or arbor? Do you have favorite trees to highlight? Set the flashlight at the base of several features. Uplighting is great for tall ornamental grasses as well.
- * **Downlighting.** Try shining the flashlight down on features you want to highlight. Downlighting is commonly used for paths and walkways.
- * **Backlighting.** Are there any features you'd like to silhouette? Place the flashlight behind them to see the effect.
- * **Crosslighting.** Find another flashlight, light a feature from two different directions for added dimension.
- * **Submersible lighting** is great for ponds. Have a waterfall? Consider spotlighting it.

Call us today for a free lighting consultation, 248-625-8844.