# Landscape Lighting Effects

Your guide to understanding the top 9 lighting effects



## 1. Uplighting for directional viewing

Fixtures: -spot, accent lights, floodlights, and well lights.

The object is lit in one direction only and the fixture is usually placed in or above the ground below what you are accenting. This is a common way to highlight elements in your landscape, like flags or large flowering trees.

## 2. Uplighting for $360^{\circ}$ viewing

Fixtures: -spot, accent lights, floodlights, and well lights.

The object is lit from below creating an even light when viewed from any side. In-ground fixtures are often used. This is a common way to highlight elements in your landscape that will be seen from more that one view-point.

## 3. Moonlighting

#### Fixtures:

-floodlights, spot/accent lights, well lights.

This technique is achieved by placing light fixures within branches of a mature tree or by attaching a fixture to a nearby wall that shines through the branches. This effect will cast unique shadows in your landscape.













### 4. Silhouette lighting

Fixtures: -well lights, spot/accent lights, wall wash lights.

This technique involves aiming a light at a unique statue or plant to cast an eye-catching shadow on a wall. It is important to place the fixture directly in front of what you are dramatizing in order for the shadow to be apparent while walking by. The further the fixture is away from your object the less intense the shadow will be.

# 5. Spotlighting

Fixtures: -floodlights, spot/accent lights

Fixtures are placed high on walls, eaves, or shade structures in order to light specfic areas in your landscape. Some areas worth spotlighting would be decks, pools, hot tubs, arbors, or lawn and planting areas. This technique also brings a sense of safety to a dark yard.

# 6. Spreadlighting

Fixtures: -spread lights

Spread lights are used to provide light for areas of low plantings. Consider using spreadlights for showing off groundcover, low growing shrubs, or flowerbeds.







# 7. Pathlighting

#### Fixtures:

-mushrooms, tulip lights, lanterns, tier lights, specialty lights

Path lighting is the ultimate way to provide a safe, secure and visible path for walking at night. Path lights are similar to spread lights and must be correctly placed to prevent glare.

## 8. Step & deck lighting

Fixtures: -spot/accent lights, specialty lights

Light fixtures can be recessed in the risers of steps to illuminate and provide safety for stairways. Deck fixtures can be placed as surface lights between vertical posts and railings.









# 9. Wall lighting

Fixtures: -well lights, spot/accent lights, wall wash lights

This technique enhances structural elements of your home or hardscape. Elements that were not noticed during the day can play a dramatic role in your landscape at night. Chimineys, fencing, retaining walls, and structure walls are all candidates for wall lighting.





INFORMATION: Harris, c.w., & Dines, N.(1998) Time Saver Standards for Landscape Architecture. Columbia: McGraw-Hill, inc., www.landscapelights.com; PHOTOS: www.landmechanics.com, www.andrewgrossman.com, www.lightonlandscape.com.au, www.lightonlandscape.com.au, www.studioh-inc.com, www.greenscenelandscape.com, www.shadesofgreenla.com; BY: Renee' Brown @ LandscapingNetwork.com