

Lighting

Article courtesy of the Prairie Village Police Department

It is a well-known fact that satisfactory lighting is a very valuable deterrent to crime. Although most any lighting might help reduce your risk of becoming a victim; the right lights, utilized properly will be an extremely effective deterrent to burglars and other intruders and improve your home security.



While no one expects your home to look like the ones above, it is statistically proven that darkness gives the following advantages:

- It is less likely that police patrols, neighbors or a passerby will observe criminal activity
- Provides the criminal with cover for observing potential targets and for escape.
- Fear based perceptions of being on dark streets reduce the number of witnesses and potential observers
- Increases the opportunity for a criminal to surprise and gain control of a victim.

There are many options available at local hardware and lighting stores to choose from. Some of the options I would like to highlight are; light timers, light control devices, motion lights, and landscape lights.

Timers:

Timers come in a variety of options and start at low prices of \$5.97. A few simple timers on lights in different rooms can be set to turn on and off at specific times. One timer could be set for one hour and another timer set for a different hour, giving the illusion that someone is home moving around the rooms when the house is vacant. These timers are easy to install and operate. Most plug into the wall and all you have to do is set the time to turn on and turn off. Some models have several on/off time settings. A few of the many options are shown below.



Light Control Device:

Another option is an outdoor light control device. These devices come in a variety of choices to suit your needs. One of these products can simply be installed in your existing outdoor or indoor light fixtures and will turn the light bulb on at dusk. Most of the products screw into the light fixture and then the bulb screws into the control device. This also can give the appearance that someone is home, or at the very least have the lights on for you when you arrive home. Some models are programmable to turn on at dusk and shut off anywhere from 2 to 8 hours, or at dawn.

Other products screw into a normal light socket and turn it into a motion detection light. These products can detect motion up to 12 feet in 380 degrees when installed at an 8 foot height. Most of these products start at low prices under \$5.00 per unit up to \$22.00 for the motion detection control device. Examples are shown below:



Motion Lighting:

Motion lights are lights that will turn on when any motion is detected within its range. Motion lights are great crime deterrents because they give the illusion that someone is watching when criminals are prowling around your house. These lights can sense motion up to 100 feet away, have a 240 degree motion detection zone, and shut off at preset times (usually between 1 and 20 minutes). On some models, the lights can turn up to 240 degrees, giving the option of placing the light on the corner and illuminating two sides of a home. The detriment for these lights is that a professional electrician may be needed to wire any new lighting locations. Price range for these light fixtures starts at \$13 for one light up to \$100 for the high end styles with multiple lights.



There are many styles available that would fit your home décor as shown below:



The newest technology out now is solar lighting. Innovations in solar powered technology are beginning to have profound impacts in all areas of residential use that affect every day people and the way they live. Great solar technology advancements have recently been made in the area of solar security lights, solar post lights, and solar flag lights. Whether for the home or in your business, outdoor solar lights are proving to be invaluable for finding lighting solutions for a wide range of illumination requirements. There are two solar lights available at Home Depot and some that I found available online. Both Home Depot light fixtures are made by Heath/Zenith. All the lights feature motion detection up to 70 feet, have 180 degree range of light, charges the battery during the day, need no wiring installation, and are easy to install.

Heath/Zenith Model SL-7210-WH:

- LED light
- Price: \$49.97 (Home Depot)



Heath/Zenith Model SL-7001-WH-C:

- 15W Halogen bulb
- Price: \$89.97 (Home Depot)



WX2-167524 Smart Solar™ Duo Security Solar Spotlight:

- Led light
- Price \$74.97: found at www.sportsmansguide.com



Landscape Lighting:

Landscape lighting is smaller lights that are placed around the perimeter of the house or around the plants and flowers. These lights highlight the landscape at night as well as provide some security. The problem with these lights in the past has been finding a way to wire the lights. Most lights had to have wires buried in the ground usually at a higher cost.

With the advancement of solar lights, this problem has been eliminated. Solar landscape lights can be placed anywhere around your house without any installation costs needed. These lights come in a variety of styles and prices start at \$2.88 per unit (Home Depot). Models include a rechargeable battery that lasts between 8 and 11 hours at night, turn on automatically at night, and recharge during the day. These lights offer some lighting around your house at a very cost effective price with little to no installation hassles. Examples of these lights are shown below.

