



JDMlandscapeCA.com
559-476-7236

Some Random Landscape Thoughts

Laying out an installation plan for a low voltage landscape lighting system is fairly straightforward, but it is helpful to know a few things up front.

Fixtures: Each lighting fixture contains a light source; either an integrated (built-in) LED source or a replaceable lamp (bulb). The fixtures get their power from the transformer. Before you install any fixtures in the property, mark their approximate positions in the landscape by using small flags so you can obtain a general idea of placement and quantity.

Low Voltage Transformer: This is the power supply for the system. The best placement for the low voltage transformer is usually next to the house in a hidden location (such as behind a garden bed or near an air conditioning unit). It should be as close as possible to the fixture locations. Sometimes it makes sense to use more than one transformer; especially when fixtures are situated throughout a large property.

Wire: This is the cable that connects to the transformer and supplies power to the fixtures. The wire is rated according to the size of its conductors. The wire from the transformer needs to connect to the wires from the fixtures; and these wire runs can be made with various connections.

Installing low voltage landscape lighting is an easy way to enhance the beauty, safety, and outdoor living areas.

Happy Landscaping!



Joshua Mitchell

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Lighting Fixtures

Path lights

Guiding lights that illuminate walkways



Spotlights

Highlight specific landscape features



Downlights

Placed in a downward position creates "moonlighting"



Flood Lights

High beam angles will lighten broad areas



Underwater Lights

Designed to be constantly submerged



Hardscape Lights

Enhances natural beauty and adds safety



Lighting Terms

Beam Spread / Beam Angle

Refers to the spread of light from the luminaire.

This is chosen based on the task at hand and how wide the light needs to spread.

Color temperature

Specifies how warm (yellowish) or cool (bluish) the lighting is.

Most lighting ranges from 2000K (very warm candlelight) up to 5000K (whitish blue).

Efficacy

Compares the total power consumption to light output.

LED bulbs can produce a lot more lumens while utilizing much less power or wattage.

Lumen Output

Measures the total quantity of the visible light emitted.

This is known as illumination or simply how bright it is.