

# Choose outdoor lighting carefully

A well illuminated homesite, farmstead or other rural business adds value to your property in three ways:

- Enhances personal safety and prevents injuries;
- Deters vandalism and theft;
- Extends the productive work hours and outdoor recreation time beyond sundown.

But do you know how to match the right type of light source to the need and location? If you want to illuminate the area in front of your garage, will a 40 watt low pressure sodium lamp provide enough light? How high should it be mounted? Knowing the best light source and fixture style can make all the difference in how you spend your outdoor lighting dollars.

Too often, consumers purchase whatever light fixture happens to be on sale at their local home center, without a thought about wattage, mounting height, energy efficiency, or ease of maintenance. The following recommendations can help you make a better choice.

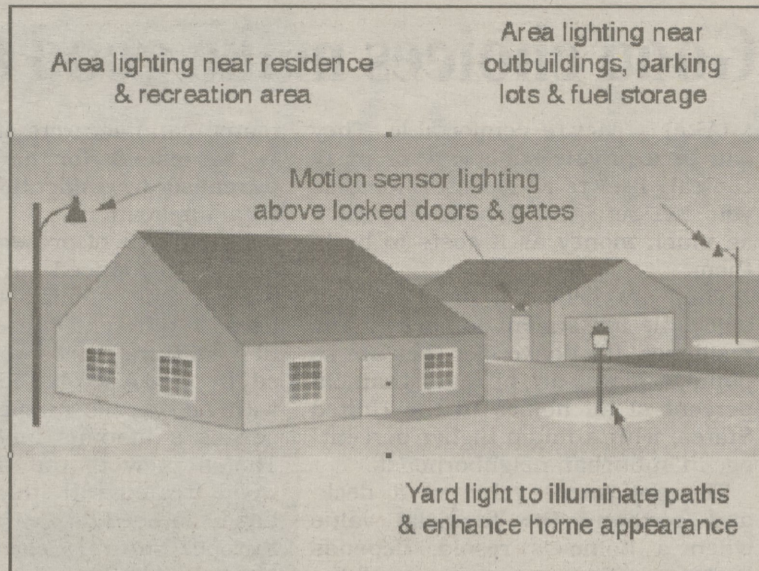
To illuminate large areas around buildings, fuel storage or parking lots, use high intensity discharge lights (HID). This family of light sources are characterized by their intense, bright light, and must be mounted high to spread the light and avoid glare. Low pressure sodium is a common HID light source.

In urban or suburban areas, be sure you're not sending light into your neighbor's window or other areas where it is not wanted. Look for fixtures with a reflector or head assembly that directs light downward. A well designed fixture may cost a little more, but you are gaining in the long run because all the light you pay for is being directed where you can use it. A typical 90 watt, high pressure sodium lamp (120 W with ballast), burning from dusk-to-dawn (about 4,100 hours/year) costs \$49.20 to operate annually, at 10¢ per kilowatt-hour.

Around entrance doors, gates or other locked areas, use motion-sensor lights. These infrared-activated spot lights have two advantages. They are only on when needed, and their focused beam helps get keys in locks, or maneuver oversized equipment through gates or doors. The automatic off feature also saves energy, since lights are only on a short time.

Near the front walkway of your home or business, use a decorative yard light on a six foot lamp post to illuminate

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A lighting scheme can help in planning for your property.

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