

FLOODLIGHTS

Shining through

Melissa Davidson from The Lighting Warehouse provides an overview on the benefits of installing floodlighting around the home.

Floodlights are high intensity lights that can last a long period of time when in use, explains Melissa Davidson from The Lighting Warehouse: "Installing outdoor floodlights is an easy and inexpensive home improvement project that will give your home's exterior an inviting ambience, increased functionality and added security at night."

Different types of floodlights

Today, floodlights come in a wide range of styles, sizes and intensities to help eliminate the dark shadows around the exterior of your home. There is a variety of different types of outdoor floodlights currently on the market, says Davidson:

1. CFL floodlights

"Did you know that a 500w incandescent halogen floodlight uses a half a kilowatt every hour — this is a huge energy guzzler. Of all your lighting fittings in the home — this is the worst consumer and as such, replacing them with CFL floods instead is a more eco-friendly and pocket-wise choice," explains Davidson.

She advises to go green and replace your existing incandescent halogen globes (500w or 300w) in your floodlight fitting with an energy-saving option. You can use a 24w double-ended CFL (compact fluorescent light bulb) for example, which will use the same power as a 150w incandescent globe — this will save electricity and help reduce your lighting bill, as well as reduce your spending on maintenance costs, as these globes last longer. You could also change your 150w halogen incandescent globe and replace it with a 9w double-ended CFL, which uses the same power as its 50w incandescent counterpart.



105w Combo Floodlight (code: 14008)

Press Release



45w combo floodlight



2 x 18w Floodlight (code: 7435)



2 x 26w Floodlight (code: 2923)

Alternatively, you can replace your floodlight completely (fitting and globe), and install any of the following energy-saving CFL floods in its place:

- The Lighting Warehouse sells a 45w combo floodlight (with globe) for (R449,95).
- The 105w Combo Floodlight (code: 14008) is the most powerful CFL floodlight with an output of 500w, which retails at The Lighting Warehouse for (R849,95).
- The 2 x 18w Floodlight (code: 7435), which retails at The Lighting Warehouse for (R449,95).
- The 2 x 26w Floodlight (code: 2923), which retails at The Lighting Warehouse for (R599,95).

2. Discharge lamp floodlights

“Discharge lamp floodlights have the highest lumen output per watt. The longevity of these globes is very high because they are gas-operated. They are usually used for industrial or commercial applications. The downside to these globes is that it takes at least three to five minutes to start these globes up,” says Davidson. There are three types of discharge lamp floodlights:

- Metal halide floodlights, which is what you see at day night cricket matches in stadiums, as well as large parking lots and other business or industrial settings.
- Mercury vapour floodlights, which are ideal for use in small business parks and in large gardens.
- High pressure sodium floodlights, which are the yellow lights you see on street lights.



The Lighting Warehouse offers a 125w mercury floodlight (code: 2925), which retails for (R649,95).

3. LED floodlights

LEDs are the future and LED floodlights are now readily available to consumers. However, warns Davidson, they are extremely expensive, with top-end ranges costing up to R4 000 per fitting: “Of course, in the long run, they will save you money on energy consumption, as they use as much as 80% less the energy of incandescent and halogen globes.”

4. Solar floodlights

Relatively new to the market, solar-powered floodlights offer a low cost and eco-friendly lighting option. The interior of the light contains batteries that store the energy collected from the sun until it is needed. “The only drawback to these lights is that they are comparatively expensive to purchase and they need to be placed in a position that receives a great deal of sunlight. The quality of light at this stage, however, particularly if required for security purposes, is not that good. For ambience requirements however, solar floodlights will meet the requirements,” explains Davidson.

Motion sensors

A common advancement in floodlight design is the built-in motion sensor, says Davidson: “Light fittings with built-in motion sensors offer the ability to turn themselves on automatically the second the sensor detects movement in the prescribed coverage area, and then turn the high powered flood lights off within a set prescribed amount of time, usually a few minutes.” Motion sensors are great energy savers, only switching the floodlight on when they are activated and negating the need for them to run all night long. They can also act as a very beneficial security aid to your home.

Because motion sensors will switch the globe in your floodlight on and off intermittently — do not use CFL globes. With CFLs or any other inductive lighting that has a ballast, one must not switch the lights on and off as this seriously reduces the lifespan of the globe as there is a limited lifespan on every fluorescent. Halogen globes are thus the answer for motions sensor floodlight applications.



The Lighting Warehouse retails the 150w (code: 7666) and 500w (code: 7667) floodlight with built-in motion sensor for R129.95 and R169,95 each respectively.

The benefits of floodlights

Davidson says that many homeowners report a better sense of security if their properties are well illuminated during the night, and as such, installing floodlights to keeping these areas well lit has become a common and popular practice: “Floodlights act as a deterrent to potential intruders, who would be less likely to burgle a property when they can be clearly seen by your neighbours, patrolling private security or passers-by.

“Floodlights also come in handy when fumbling with your keys at night to try and see how to get into your home, which is a security risk in itself, especially if you are on your own. And with a motion sensor, you are able to see what is going on outside your home or when entering or exiting your home, at any time of night,” she notes. What’s more, Davidson says that floodlights are an economical method of illuminating your outdoor areas, which can be a wonderful advantage when throwing outdoor parties or get-togethers in the evening: “Installing these light fittings enables homeowners to continue enjoying their outdoor activities long after the sun has set.”

Placement tips for your floodlights from The Lighting Warehouse:

- Placing floodlights on the exterior corners of your home allows you to light a large area with one fixture. Good security lighting would include a floodlight on each exterior corner of your home.
- Additional floodlights can be placed at remaining dark spots along the exterior walls of the house. Placement under your roof's overhang or in the eaves of the house keeps the fixture out of contact with direct rain and will extend the life of the fixture.
- Placement of simple floodlight fixtures in trees or on posts in your garden will extend the lighting available from the house and cover a much larger section of your property. In addition to being good for security, this can also serve to improve the night-time usability of exterior areas.
- Be sure to include an on/off light switch for each floodlight, which should be positioned by the front or rear exit of your home, or in your bedroom.

Making the most of your floodlights

Davidson provides the following three steps to help you get the best from your floodlight, ensuring it provides safe, beneficial and inexpensive outdoor lighting:

1. **Keep it down:** Minimise blinding glare and avoid wasted light shining into the sky or neighbouring property by tilting the floodlight down as far as possible. Only the area to be lit should be covered by the beam. Site the floodlight as high as is practical, as this enables less tilt and provides safer, more even lighting that cannot be tampered with by intruders. This can save money too by letting you use a lower wattage bulb.
2. **Keep it controlled:** Motion sensors are very useful, as are passive infra-red (PIR) sensors that are connected to your floodlight, which can also help trigger the light only when it's needed, thereby reducing running costs and aiding in security. You can prevent your PIR "crying wolf" by positioning it away from heat sources and areas used by straying pets — these can trigger the light accidentally creating an annoyance and costing you money.
3. **Keep it off when not needed:** Most sensors can be adjusted to keep the light on for two to five minutes once triggered. Adjust your sensor to the shortest time that suits your needs. This will save you money, reduce potential glare problems for neighbours and pedestrians, and allow everyone to enjoy the night sky when the light is off. 🏠

Please note all prices are correct as at 26 January 2011. Stocks are limited. Globes sold separately unless otherwise stated.



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