

Guidelines For Security Lights

A security light is defined as any light mounted outside the home and designed to provide light to the yard during the night time hours for security purposes. It will generally be turned on during all or part of the night by means of a timer or photoelectric cell to provide a moderate amount of light to illuminate the immediate yard and property. Porch lights, garage lights, tree lights and post lights may fall into this category.

Any security light fixture should have a means to control the light pattern and, if necessary, a hood or cutoff shield to prevent light trespass and glare to neighboring homes or property.

A fixture to meet these requirements is generally known by the generic name of "Wallpack" or "Surface Mount" and is made by a number of manufacturers. The preferred type of light source is the High Pressure Sodium lamp (HPS). It produces a non-glare amber color light, has a lifetime of 24,000 hours and is the most efficient lamp today. A compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) has only half the life of the HPS but, in the proper fixture, may better suit the home owner's lighting requirements.

A bare bulb mercury vapor light with its glare and blue color is not acceptable.

A PAR type incandescent light may be used to light small areas if it is in a fixture that provides cut-off control and has an adjustable joint to allow light pattern aiming.

In general, a HPS or CFL lamp of 35 to 70 watts capacity in the proper fixture will provide an adequate amount of light for security purposes. PAR lamps of up to 100 watts capacity are acceptable.

Remember, your security light may be your neighbor's night-light!

ARC

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