

Let there be light!

There's no more haunting or magical time in the garden than twilight.

If only you could extend twilight for an hour or two, the day would be redeemed.

Well, that's where outdoor lighting comes in. And in the past two years there's been a huge expansion in the number of gardeners who decided to 'light-up' to give their gardens an extra dimension in the evenings.

Solar-powered lighting is the simplest option.

You just place the lights in the ground where you want them and the sun does the rest.

They are a good choice wherever you want a no-maintenance solution and you have plenty of sunlight. They work less well in partial shade and are not a viable option in densely shaded areas.

The convenience of solar garden lights is that they do not require any wiring. A lamp can be fixed anywhere either by planting a stake in the ground or by simply screwing the fixture in place on any structure, provided its location will allow it to absorb the sun's energy during the day.

Solar garden lights are a self generating power source that charges up by absorbing the sun's energy and discharging the stored energy to give out a soft glowing light at night.



Solar lighting adds another dimension to the garden

In the early days these solar lamps were not very efficient. The photovoltaic cells weren't strong enough to reliably hold a charge for more than a few hours. However, with LED technology emerging together with the more efficient NiMH power packs replacing the older NiCAD, modern solar garden lights provide both a stronger light and a longer discharge time than they did in the past.

The components that make up a solar garden light are very simple: inside the plastic casing you will find a small controller board, wired to an LED light source, a photo resistor that is required to detect darkness, a single AA NiCAD battery and a solar cell that goes on top.

There is no need to be concerned with power bills, power surges and other voltage issues. They are perfectly safe around little children and pets and there is no fear of being electrocuted.

Solar powered garden lights have no need for transformers, special wiring or cabling. A lamp can be placed at the remotest corner of the landscape to light up a special feature, a pathway or to focus on a security need. Much can be achieved with solar lights in the garden and they can only increase the enjoyment of your garden.



The growing demand for this source of lighting has spawned the lighting industry to produce more decorative solar garden lighting that are both aesthetically and practically pleasing.

The only drawback is the cost. However, the initial outlay is eventually offset by smaller energy bills. The more powerful the panel, the more it will cost. Rigid panels cost less per watt than flexible and folding panels. Generally speaking if weight and portability is the main concern then you need a folding or rollable panel.

In sizing a system the aim is to balance the power going in from the solar panel with the power going out of the battery over a period of days or weeks depending on how it is being used. In winter a 10W panel will give 10W over a whole day in summer it will provide 40W.

Select Solar range offers design options

Select Solar - the solar power specialists have one of the biggest and best selection of garden lights. The range reflects the growing demand for this source of lighting which now produces more decorative and imaginative options than ever before with lights encompassed in stone and oak posts.



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