

Outdoor Lighting and Tree Care Guide

Fixture placement choices that work with a tree's natural cycle

Before you install new lighting

- 1 Note which trees sit within a fixture's throw**
Walk the yard after dark and see which branches actually catch direct light.
- 2 Favor downward facing fixtures near canopies**
Path and step lights aimed at the ground rarely reach branches overhead.
- 3 Plan timers into the layout from the start**
Deciding on a schedule during installation is simpler than retrofitting it later.

For lighting you already have

- 1 Add a timer or motion sensor**
Limiting continuous dusk to dawn use reduces total nightly exposure for nearby trees.
- 2 Reposition uplights away from canopies**
Angling a fixture toward a trunk or facade instead of branches changes what the tree actually receives.
- 3 Consider warmer color temperature bulbs**
Warmer toned light is generally considered the gentler option compared with harsher blue toned lighting.

Questions to ask a lighting installer

- 1 Where will each fixture's beam actually land**
Ask for a walkthrough at dusk before finalizing fixture placement near trees.
- 2 What schedule will fixtures run on**
Confirm whether lights are proposed for continuous overnight use or a timed window.
- 3 Which trees on the property are most mature**
Point out established trees so the installer can plan placement around them.

Map the light, add a timer, then plant and place with both in mind.

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