



Battery powered outdoor lights screwfix

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Outdoor lighting is useful for all sorts of situations. It lights up entrances and walkways, deters would-be intruders and adds ambience to an outside space.

This guide tells you everything you need to know about outdoor lighting. It covers how outdoor lights work and the different types. It talks through the features to look for when choosing exterior lighting and explains IP ratings. It also gives installation information and highlights some things to consider before buying.

Outdoor lighting uses power from a mains electricity supply, a battery or solar power to illuminate a bulb. The light can be controlled in several ways:

Like indoor lighting, exterior lighting can be turned on and off from a light switch. Although the light is outside, it can be more convenient to install the switch indoors. Outdoor switches are available for controlling lighting externally.

Connecting an exterior light to a timer allows it to be turned off automatically after a predetermined length of time. This can be useful for lights in areas that only need to be illuminated for a short period, such as a porch.

Functional exterior lighting (e.g., security or walkway lighting) is often fitted with motion sensors designed to work once it gets dark. The light switches on when the sensor is activated and then turns off after a predetermined length of time. This ensures energy is used efficiently as the light is only on when needed. The best outdoor motion sensor lights use PIR (passive infrared) sensors. These sensors are more accurate than other types because they detect body heat, not just movement.

Smart outdoor lighting has an inbuilt device that allows it to be connected to the internet via Wi-Fi. The light can then be controlled by an app on a smartphone or tablet or by voice command through a smart speaker. It can be controlled remotely or scheduled to turn off and on automatically, adding additional security when away from home. Read our smart lighting guide for more detail.

Solar outdoor lights use a photocell or photoresistor to control the circuit inside the solar light depending on how dark or light it is. This technology has a dusk-to-dawn sensor, and they will turn on at night, when it detects little or no light, and off during daylight hours as the solar panel charges the battery and photoresistor stops the lights turning on.

Outdoor lighting comes in various types and styles, each suitable for different purposes.

Here, we look at the most common types of exterior lighting, their benefits, and where you might use them.



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Wall lights are available in both contemporary and traditional designs and are ideal for lighting pathways, seating areas or patios outside. Great for style and ambience, but also practical for security. Some outdoor wall lights include a passive infrared sensor (PIR) to illuminate only when motion is detected in the area which is a great way to save energy, and others are mains, solar or battery powered.

Floodlights give out a bright, intense flood of light, making them ideal for illuminating large outdoor spaces that need to be well lit. They're also popular for security purposes and are often installed above entrances, in driveways or along walkways. In addition, they have LED lights that are energy-efficient to run, reducing their carbon footprint and saving money on energy bills. Floodlights are available in various styles and have different wattage options to choose from based on how bright the light needs to be and the size of the space being lit.

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