

LITEMODE

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Closed Sun; Mon to Wed 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Thurs 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Fri 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; and Sat 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Developing a LIGHTING PLAN

There are many elements incorporated into a home that are viewed daily, such as flooring, furnishings, wood railings, artwork and even the light fixtures. Without a well-planned lighting system, all of the efforts to show these elements will be lost.

Three main things to consider in a lighting plan

ROOM USAGE Who will use it most often, and for what purpose? Knowing that will help you determine the lighting level required for a space.

COLOUR SELECTION Dark colours absorb a lot of light and can make a space seem smaller. Lighter colours reflect more light and can make smaller spaces feel larger and warmer.

SPECIAL NEEDS Artwork, either floor- or wall-mounted, requires special attention that has to be planned for well in advance. Specific tasks to be performed in an area have their own special needs.

Three major lighting categories to consider for the home

AMBIENT LIGHTING This is the general lighting in a space. It should provide a level of comfort based on the activities in a room. Ambient lighting is achieved by using ceiling, wall, recessed and track lighting, either in combination or alone.

ACCENT LIGHTING This category mainly includes recessed and track lighting. Accent lighting has the ability to be directed and focused onto and toward specific elements in a space. Specialized wall sconces can also be included in this category. Accent lighting should be three to five times brighter than ambient room lighting.

TASK LIGHTING Reading, crafts and games are examples of tasks that have their own lighting needs. Types of task lighting include portable lamps, and recessed, track, pendant and under-counter lighting.



Any lighting plan will have to blend these categories, often in the same room. Individual tastes and styles will determine what works best.

Finally, no lighting plan is complete without attention to how you will control the lighting in your home. You must pay attention to such simple details as where and how to switch the lighting, as well as dimming a lighting system. Dimming systems range from individual to whole-house control systems.

By developing a comprehensive lighting plan as part of your overall building or remodelling, you will achieve a level of comfort and efficiency that saves energy and money.