

Maintaining Your Lighting System

Periodic Maintenance (as needed):

1. Replace failed lamps with the correct replacement lamps as they burn out.
2. Trim overgrown plant material away from fixtures to keep plant growth from blocking light output.
3. Straighten leaning fixtures.
4. Re-adjust fixtures as needed.
5. Reset timers as needed.

Twice a Year Maintenance (once every 6 months):

1. Replace failed lamps with the correct replacement lamps as they burn out.
2. Trim overgrown plant material away from fixtures to keep plant growth from blocking light output.
3. Straighten leaning fixtures.
4. Re-adjust fixtures as needed.
5. Reset timers as needed.
6. Clean powdercoated fixture with Windex or similar and wipe on a thin coat of WD-40 for weather protection.
7. Clean all lenses with Windex or similar.
8. Clean bugs and debris out of open fixtures.
9. Lubricate all lamps bases/sockets with Vaseline.

Once a Year Maintenance (once every 12 months):

1. Replace failed lamps with the correct replacement lamps as they burn out.
2. Trim overgrown plant material away from fixtures to keep plant growth from blocking light output.
3. Straighten leaning fixtures.
4. Re-adjust fixtures as needed.
5. Reset timers as needed.
6. Clean powdercoated fixture with Windex or similar and wipe on a thin coat of WD-40 for weather protection.
7. Clean all lenses with Windex or similar.
8. Clean bugs and debris out of open fixtures.
9. Lubricate all lamps bases/sockets with Vaseline.

Maintenance

Maintenance:

Should be broken down into several categories

- Lamp Maintenance
- Fixture Maintenance
- Powercenter™ Maintenance
- Electrical Maintenance

Lamp Maintenance

The most efficient way to re-lamp a lighting installation is to re-lamp the entire project at once. Or rep-lamp the entire project based on 'lamp type'.

If a Lighting Specialist waits to change each lamp as it burns out, the larger projects will actually consume any extra available time they may have. Break the system down into the four basic lamp categories:

1. **PAR-36**
 - a. incandescent (500 – 1500 hrs)
 - b. halogen (1500 – 3000 hrs)
2. **MR-16**
 - a. standard life (5000 hrs)
 - b. long-life (10,000 hrs)
3. **Quartz-Halogen Bi-Pin T-3, T-4**
(1500 – 3000 hrs)
4. **Incandescent**
 - a. single-contact bayonet-base (800 – 1500 hrs)
 - b. wedge-base (800-2000 hrs) (15000 – 30000 hrs)

Create a file with each installation you complete and list the different types of lamps you utilized draw out locations and create 'lamp-type zones' and record the average operating voltage for each lamp on the project.

Given the lamp type, the average life expectancy of that lamp and the average operating voltage; this will give you an idea as to when and how often 'Maintenance-care' visits should occur.

Always apply NIGHTSCAPING® "Socket-Saver" on the base of the lamps Apply this compound to the terminal screws of the PAR-36, the pins of the MR-16 lamps and the socket as well as the pins of the Quartz-Halogen Bi-pins lamp and the socket, and to the Single-Contact Bayonet lamp base and the socket.

NIGHTSCAPING® Single-Contact Bayonet-Base sockets are totally 100% corrosion-free sockets. They are molded from a high-heat silicone resin nylon that withstands the rigors of a socket in the harsh environment of Mother Nature.

When re-lamping WEDGE-BASE fixtures, dip the wedge-base lamp into the moisture inhibiting compounds (Socket-Saver) before inserting it into the socket. While there are no metallic compound will help the lamp and socket made optimum contact for trouble-free operation.

Fixture Maintenance

The physical condition of the fixtures, the operational conditions of the fixtures, and the original intentions (the placement, their 'aim') of the fixtures are very important.

Physical Condition

Clean the fixture and the lens if applicable. The flat painted surfaces of the fixtures generally have water stains, deposit and residue build-up. Many standard household spray clean work very well in cleaning the painted surfaces as well as the build-up on the glass lens.

Once the fixtures has been thoroughly cleaned, apply a automobile spay way on the painted surface of the fixture and an automobile lens. This will create an invisible shield to protect the unit from build-up in the future.

Open fixtures should be cleaned and 'bug build-up' removed, dusted and 'wax' protected as well.

Operational Condition

If a lesser quality electrical connection was used upgrade with an ACE-CONNECTOR™. If the fixture had been installed for an extended period of time, corrosion may have started and is actually interfering with the cable/fixture connection and the lamp may not be operating at its potential in voltage and light output.

Again, the lens should be checked to make sure it's clean and free of build-up so it will pass al light without inference.

ORIGINAL INTENTIONS

Is the fixture solving the original task in which it was intended at the conception of the design?

Check the aim, check the vertical alignment, check the bi-product of the fixture, the 'EFFECT'. Make sure that it's looking its best.

Plant material may need trimming. A few small tree branches may need trimming. In larger tree-downlighting projects, arborists are often called in to trim up and clear out the trees especially to enhance the lighting effects.

During the original installation, the ground mounted fixtures should have been installed with extra cable coiled up and buried at the base in order to re-locate the fixture 2' to 3' in order to achieve maximum light EFFECT and efficiency.

ADDITIONAL CONCERNS

A 'winter lighting plan' takes advantage of the unique beauty of the winter landscape during those months when snow covers the ground. Pay attention to the possibilities of winter lighting and call them to your client's attention.

While separate 'summer' and 'winter' lighting systems can be established using waterproof out door switches, it is often not necessary to dedicate an entire separate lighting system to winter lighting.

Remember, that 'winter' lighting is not only aesthetic – the woodpile becomes extremely important during cold weather.

Nightscaping Inc.

1705 E. Colton Avenue, Redlands, California 92374
(909) 794-2121 • Help Line: (800) 544-4840 • Fax: (909) 794-7292
Website: www.nightscaping.com • E-mail: info@nightscaping.com