

## TIPS & TRICKS

### ***WHAT YOU CAN LIGHT***

Generally speaking, if you want to light something, you can with Hunza lights – architectural features, decks, tree trunks, lawns, leaves, flowers, fountains, ponds, pergolas, patios, paths...you name it.

### ***PAINT A PICTURE WITH LIGHT AND SHADE***

When designing your scheme, try to think of it in its entirety, rather than as separate bits. All the elements should hang together and be in balance. Remember that things visible during the day can be left in darkness, so you have the opportunity to make dramatic changes to your visible landscape.

### ***LESS REALLY IS MORE***

Shadow is as important to your scheme as light, so don't try to light everything. Instead, retain some mystery. Also, keep it subtle – very bright garden lighting can look brash and artificial.

### ***HIDE YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BUSH***

Hunza lights are handsome, but ultimately it's the lighting effect you want to see, not the fitting. So wherever possible, hide the light source – behind a shrub, perhaps, a rock, a pot or a wall.

### ***AVOID GLARE***

When it comes to garden lighting, there's no razzle in dazzle. So try to angle the light beams away from your lines of sight. Where this isn't possible, glare guards can reduce the dazzle factor.

### ***PLACING LIGHTS NEAR PLANTS***

If you're installing lights in winter, remember that your herbaceous plants will be growing in the summer. Try to avoid placing lights where they will be swamped by summer foliage.

### ***EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHTING EFFECTS***

Try throwing shadows onto walls, creating reflections in ponds, or using backlighting to create interesting silhouettes. The possibilities are almost endless.

### ***WATTAGE AND BEAM ANGLES***

The wide choice of beam angles, Wattages, mounts and options such as frosted lenses means you can tailor each light source to create a precise effect. If you need to increase the beam throw of a lamp, try using a 20W lamp with a 10 deg. beam angle, rather than upgrading to a 35W or 50W lamp.

### ***COLOURED LAMPS?***

Lamps are available in a variety of colours, although with less choice of Wattage and beam width. Used sparingly they can create interesting effects, but avoid the Las Vegas look.

*Exclusive European Importers for Hunza Productions Ltd of New Zealand*

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## **CHANGING LAMPS**

When you're replacing a lamp, check it's the right Wattage and beam angle. Avoid cheap lamps – they're a false economy because they have shorter lives and need changing more often. We recommend using lamps with a rating of at least 5000 hours.

## **KEEP YOUR STAINLESS STEEL STAINLESS**

If you opt for stainless steel fittings, regular washing to remove salt spray will prevent Tea Staining. There are also cleaning products especially for stainless steel.

## **TAKING CARE OF YOUR CABLE**

Black low voltage electrical cable is fairly invisible when placed on soil, but you can hide it by burying it in an inch or two of soil, or under mulch. Keen gardeners might prefer to keep the cable visible to avoid accidentally damaging it when digging.

## **INSTALLING YOUR LIGHTING SCHEME**

We recommend using a qualified electrician to install your lighting, and make sure all the electrical circuits are protected by an RCD. Only use electrical equipment designed for exterior use with the appropriate IP rating, and please don't even think about protecting equipment with plastic bags or temporary wrappings, rather than proper weatherproof enclosures.

## **HEAT**

Halogen light sources do generate a considerable amount of heat therefore precautions should be taken when considering their location, particularly at low level public areas where children may come into contact. Normally there is always a solution, therefore, if in doubt please contact your local Hunza distributor for advice.

## **WHICH FINISH?**

The copper fittings dull down when exposed to the elements to become visually unobtrusive. The stainless steel finish, by contrast, is popular with designers seeking a hard-edged and contemporary urban look. The powder-coated aluminium fittings are less expensive and so are ideal for out-of-sight locations.

## **WHY USE LOW VOLTAGE?**

Low-voltage systems are ideal for gardens for safety reasons. If someone accidentally puts a spade through the cable, they will be unharmed. They are therefore easier to install. Cables for 240 volt systems have to be buried in deep trenches. Low-voltage systems are also more economical to run – a 50 Watt low-voltage lamp uses approximately half the electricity of a conventional 50 Watt lamp. To connect a low-voltage system to the mains, you need one or more transformers (Light Ideas also supplies these). There are many on the market, including ones sufficiently waterproof that they can be buried in the border. Alternatively, they can be located in a shed, greenhouse, or even somewhere out of sight in the home. The cable connecting all the lights can be buried in the soil, left exposed on the surface (this has the advantage that it can be seen and so reduces the danger of damage with spades and forks and, because the cable is usually black, is largely invisible), or tacked onto a fence or wall. Installing a full low-voltage system is probably beyond the abilities of all but the most talented DIYers. We always recommend the use of a qualified electrician and, ideally, one who specialises in outdoor lighting. Low-voltage fittings use dichroic halogen lamps that cast a beautifully clean, crisp, white light.

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Because they are directional, the beam is tightly controlled. It is this tight beam that makes possible so many subtle lighting effects.

## **LIGHTING DESIGNERS**

We also recommend the use of a lighting designer. A wealth of effects can be achieved using directional fittings (as illustrated in the Gallery), but it's still necessary to design a scheme which is balanced and where there's a pleasing play of light and shade throughout the garden.



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