



Lighting to Highlight Your Home Decor

Lighting is an important element in home decor. It not only highlights our surroundings, but also enables us to perceive color and texture.

Lighting and Décor

Attractive, well-lit rooms most often combine the four types of lighting:

- Ambient or [general lighting](#) provides a safe and comfortable level of light.
- Task lighting supplies the intense directed light needed for detailed work.
- [Accent lighting](#) spotlights interesting features in your home's decor.
- Natural lighting includes sunlight, candlelight and firelight. The quality of natural light changes depending on the time of day, weather, season and location of the room it is in.
 - A north facing room receives less direct sunlight than a south facing room.
 - A west facing room receives strong, warm light in the evening, casting an orange tint.
 - An east facing room receives strong bright, light in the morning, casting a white glow.

If your current lighting scheme employs only ambient or task lighting, you are missing a tremendous opportunity to add interest and vitality to your décor. Adding accent lighting will change your ordinary room into a distinctive one.

Lighting Fixtures

Lighting fixtures themselves don't just have to blend into the background. More than ever before, they have become fashion pieces:

- Polished brass finishes, while they remain a popular favorite, aren't the only choices anymore.
- There is a range of finishes available—pewter, fossil stone, French beige and rustic brown—just to name a few.
- Tiffany glass is enjoying renewed popularity.
- If you just need something to update your favorite lamp, there are a variety of shades and decorative finials available.
- The rail system is bendable to fit any space.
- The cable system is changeable and can be arranged to suit your needs.
- The pendant system can hang from any ceiling.
- Low-voltage lighting systems are available that are powered by an electronic transformer. The transformer mounts to an existing electrical box and converts your house voltage of 120 to 12 volts. By reducing the amount of voltage, the system is safe to touch. Three different systems are available:
 - [Rail system](#): The rail system is bendable. You can curve it and form it to fit any space. It is flexible enough to fit into any nook, hallway, alcove, gallery or kitchen.
 - [Cable system](#): The cable system is changeable and can be arranged in a traditional or contemporary manner. The lights can be moved around on the cable to suit your needs.
 - [Pendant system](#): The pendant system hangs from any ceiling. Use it over the dining room table for soft lighting or in your living room for added

Tiffany style lamps enjoy renewed popularity

beauty. A ceiling canopy houses a 50-watt electronic transformer that mounts to a standard electrical box. Pendant lights can be used individually or in a group.

Lighting Basics

Here are some tips to remember as you plan the lighting throughout your home:

- When deciding on the lighting for a room, consider these questions: What kind of mood should the lighting create? What different activities take place in the room? What decorative elements do you want to attract attention?
- In general, to create an inviting atmosphere use three to five light sources in every room.
- To simplify your decorating decisions, there are lighting collections available with the same finish and style for pendants, chandeliers, wall-mounted sconces, as well as floor and table lamps. Using fixtures from the same collection within a single room creates a unified look.
- To make rooms interesting, vary the height of the light sources in the room. The differing heights add depth and interest by creating separate areas of light and shade.
- In most rooms you should allow for varying intensities of light. Add dimmer switches or use three-way bulbs in lamps for flexibility. Also alternate switching patterns between general lighting, task lights, lamps and accent lighting. For example, while you are preparing food for a dinner party, you'll need task lighting instead of accent lighting, but when the guests arrive, you'll want to be able to switch off the task lights and turn on the accent lights.

Remember, because dark colors absorb light, you'll need to use more lighting in rooms decorated with dark colors than rooms with light colors.

Let Lowe's help you make your new house a home, check out our vast selection of quality lighting!