How to create

# A low-voltage landscape lighting plan

# The three main components



# A. Low-voltage transformer

- The power supply for your system
- Usually mounted near or on the house that is plugged into a regular outdoorrated GFCI electrical outlet.
- \* Avoid mounting the transformer in shady areas, this could interfere with the "dusk-to-dawn" photoelectric cell.
- \* Should be installed at least 36" (3 feet) off the ground.



# **B. Landscape lighting fixtures**

- Integrated LED spot lights, path lights, and bollards.
- Powered by the transformer
- \*When you choose lights, add up the total wattage they consume. You'll need this number for choosing other parts of your landscape lighting system.

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# C. Landscape lighting wire

- The wire connecting the transformer to the light fixtures.
- Rated according to the size of its conductor (gauge)
- \* A 12-gauge wire is larger and can handle more wattage than a 14-gauge wire.
- \* Selecting the right wire size is important and will prevent any issues down the road.



# **Path lights**

These fixtures aren't limited to paths. When mounted in gardens, they provide a gentle glow that lights a small surrounding area of plants, rock, or mulch.

# **Spot lights**

Use spotlights to make trees, plants, shrubbery, or a home's architectural features stand out.

# **Bollards**

Use these lights to enhance the look of your yard while making walkways obvious at night.

# Landscape wire



Versatile 12, 14, and 16 gauge low-voltage wire for spot lights, path lights, and bollards.



Mix it up! Different types of fixtures can be connected together.

# The four steps for an LED landscape installation

# 1. Map out a plan

- Start your layout by creating a sketch of your property.
- Be accurate with dimensions to help estimate distances for wire runs.
- Try sketching and measuring as you walk around the property marking where each fixture will be placed.

# 2. Set fixture locations

- Mark their locations with small flags on your property and indicate their placement on your sketch.
- Measure distances between fixtures and write them down on your layout.

# 3. Choose a power supply

- To figure out which power supply is best, consider two things: the total wattage of the lights that you're purchasing and if you anticipate adding lights in the future.
- When you add up the wattage of all lights, you'll have a good idea of how powerful your transformer needs to be. However, the total wattage of your lights should be 20 percent less than the transformer's rated wattage.
- Once you've selected the right transformer, the best placement is usually next to the house in a hidden location, as close as possible to the fixtures.



# 4. Wiring

Now you need to provide power to the fixtures. The length of runs helps determine what gauge of wire to buy. As a general rule, try to keep the runs under 50 feet with a maximum of 8 fixtures per run. Lower loads per run means lower voltage drop.

## What is Voltage Drop?

Voltage decreases as it moves through a run of wire and a series of lights. This means that, because each light is receiving a little less than the one before it, lights can appear dimmer toward the end of a series. A small loss is OK, but anything more than a 1.5-volt drop should be corrected.

# Checklist

Before you get ready to install your lights, make sure you have all the tools and accessories required. Below is a basic list of what you might need.

- Landscape lights
- Transformer
- Wire
- Waterproof junction box to protect connections
- Flat-blade shovel or edger
- Wire cutters
- Wire strippers
- Voltage meter
- Tape measure
- Hardware to install transformer on house or post



Check your LED fixtures' voltage requirements. This plan is for use as a guide only to help you begin your lighting project. We strongly recommend checking the actual voltage at each fixture with a volt-meter before burying and finalizing your project.

Minimize voltage drop, and wasting wire, by using one of the wiring methods below:



# **Daisy Chain**

Connects all fixtures in a linear fashion, where the first fixture connects to the transformer.

# Tip:

Use the Daisy Chain method when fixtures are not grouped and can be easily connected in a chain.



### **T-Method**

Similar to the Daisy Chain method, except the transformer connects to the middle of the chain.

### Tip:

Use the T-Method when you built a Daisy Chain in the field and want to connect it to the transformer from the middle of the chain – at whatever point saves you the most wire.



# **Hub Method**

All fixtures run through a hub junction and are connected to a single line from the transformer, ensuring each fixture receives an equal share of voltage.

### Tip:

Use the Hub Method when fixtures are grouped in a small area such as in a garden bed.

How to create

# A Dals Connect PRO Smart Landscape Plan



# The main components



# A. Low-voltage transformer

- The power supply for your system
- Usually mounted near or on the house that is plugged into a regular outdoorrated GFCI electrical outlet.
- \* Avoid mounting the transformer in an area with poor Wi-Fi reception.
- \* Should be installed at least 36" (3 feet) off the ground.



# **B. Landscape lighting fixtures**

- Dals Connect PRO integrated LED spot lights, path lights, flood light, step light, stick light or ground light.
- Powered by the transformer
- \* When you choose lights, add up the total wattage they consume. You'll need this number for choosing the right transformer for your system.

# All Dals Connect PRO Landscape products come with a 6-foot extension wire and a T-connector for easy plug-and-play to faciliate installation.



Mix it up! Different types of Dals Connect PRO fixtures can be paired together with your smart landscape

# **Transformers**

These 24V transformers come in two power capacities, 60W and 200W. An integrated PRO hub is also included.

# Plug-in Transformer & Dals Connect PRO Hub

Use the 36W DC adapter paired with a PRO Hub for smaller landscape projects

# **Plug-in Transformer**



Use the 36W DC adapter paired without a hub for smaller landscape projects with local controls.



# Path lights

These fixtures aren't limited to paths. When mounted in gardens, they provide a gentle glow that lights a small surrounding area of plants, rock, or mulch.



# Spot lights

Use spotlights to make trees, plants, shrubbery, or a home's architectural features stand out.

# **Stick lights**

Use these lights to enhance the look of your yard while making walkways obvious at night.

# Step Light



These fixtures can be surface mounted to almost anything to provide a soft glow to anything under it.



# **Rock Light**

Bring magic to your landscape with these glowing rocks.



Use these lights to create wall washes or illuminate big portions of your yard





# The science behind your SMART landscape

# 1. Map out a plan

- Start your layout by creating a sketch of your property.
- Be accurate with dimensions to help estimate distances for wire runs.
- Try sketching and measuring as you walk around the property marking where each fixture will be placed.
- You can also mark the spots on your land where the Wi-Fi signal drops on your phone, this will help determine the preferred spot for your transformer placement.

# 2. Set fixture locations

- Mark their locations with small flags on your property and indicate their placement on your sketch.
- Measure distances between fixtures and write them down on your layout.
- Note how far away your Wi-Fi signal can reach.
- Check that all smart landscape products are within 30-50 feet of each other for maximum connectivity.
- We recommend pairing your smart landscape lights closer to the house first, and then move them to their desired location. An Internet connection is required for the first pairing.

# 3. Choose a power supply

- To figure out which power supply is best, consider two things: the total wattage of the lights that you're purchasing and if you anticipate adding lights in the future.
- When you add up the wattage of all lights, you'll have a good idea of how powerful your transformer needs to be. The total wattage cannot exceed the capacity of the transformer.
- Once you've selected the right transformer, the best placement is usually next to the house in a hidden location, as close as possible to the first fixture and to your Wi-Fi.



# 4. Wiring

To connect Dals Connect PRO smart landscape products, all you need is the included power extensions and T-connectors. Every connector has only 1 way to be plugged in, so making a mistake should be easy to avoid.

# What is Voltage Drop?

Voltage decreases as it moves through a run of wire and a series of lights. This means that, because each light is receiving a little less than the one before it, lights can appear dimmer toward the end of a series. A small loss is OK, but anything more than a 2.5-volt drop should be corrected.

# Checklist

Before you get ready to install your lights, make sure you have all the tools and accessories required. Below is a basic list of what you might need.

- Landscape lights
- Transformer
- Wire
- Tape measure
- Hardware to install transformer on house or post
- Your Wi-Fi password



Check your LED fixtures' wattage requirements. This plan is for use as a guide only to help you begin your lighting project. We strongly recommend planning your total load first and make sure you don't go over 100% load.

