



LED Lamps Versus Halogen Lamps. A Win-Win Situation.

Last year, I touched on the topic of why LED lamps are the wave of the future and just how far the technology has come. Now I want to tell you how going with LEDs can save money for your customers in a short period of time.



Let's compare a 12 fixture system. I'll keep it simple: 6 up lights (bullets), 6 path lights, a transformer, and wire.

Up light fixtures typically use 35 watt lamps. $6 \times 35w = 210$ watts. Path lights typically run 20 watt lamps. $6 \times 20w = 120$ watts. We're now at 330 watts, without calculating voltage drop and amp usage, so you'll be looking at running a 600 watt transformer. 12-2# wire will work, but depending on the length of the run, you "probably" won't (more like "shouldn't" on 12-2# wire) be able to cram 6 up light fixtures on a single run, so you're looking at doing at least 2 runs. And if it's a run longer than 100' and 100 total watts, 10-2# wire is highly recommended. End result: More wire cost, more wire used, and probably 2 different gauges.

Now let's talk about LEDs. 6 watt LED lamps for up lights are equal to a 40 watt halogen. The 2.4 watt LED for the path lights are equal to a 20 watt halogen. At installation, you'll be just over 50 watts, so forget about using the big and bulky 600 watt transformer and save yourself a few bucks. I would suggest a 200 watt transformer, which would leave plenty of space for future expansion, or you could use a 100 watt transformer. You will be drawing less power, so you can go with 2-2# wire. If budgeting is an issue, you could easily use the slightly lighter gauge 14-2# wire.

- continued on page 2 -



Dave Reutter

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

[***Return to Archive***](#)





CHRISTENSEN'S PLANT CENTER

Wholesale Supplier To Landscape Professionals

The LED system will cost only about \$50 more than the equivalent halogen system, but has plenty of room for expansion, and operates on approximately 15% of the power. If you need to shave off a few more dollars, try the 100w transformer, and smaller 14-2# wire (now you're UNDER budget!). And for an added bonus: ProLED lamps are rated for 50k hours of life and carry a 5 year warranty.

Now the final kicker, here are monthly operation costs for your customer, based on 15 cents per kilowatt hour. You'll love this:

<p>Halogen system:</p> <p>6 up lights, 6 MR16 lamps, 6 path lights w/lamps, 1 600 watt transformer, 1 spool of wire either 12-2# or 10-2# (250').</p> <p>Approximate Wattage = 345 +/-</p> <p>Monthly operating cost: \$10.29</p> <p>Yearly: \$125.00</p>	<p>LED system:</p> <p>6 up lights, 6 6w LED lamps, 6 path lights, 6 2.4w LED lamps, 1 200 watt transformer, 1 spool of wire 12-2# (250').</p> <p>Approximate Wattage = 53 +/-</p> <p>Monthly operating cost: \$1.51</p> <p>Yearly: \$18.40</p>
--	---

By spending an extra \$50 on the LED upgrade, your customer will save that much in operation costs in the first 6 months! It really pays for itself.

If you've never installed lighting before, or if it seems to be a little intimidating, contact me. I can give you the basics on how to install lighting so you can make that little extra cash to buy that luxury condo over on Lake Michigan. And as always... pop in for a hot cup of coffee, that's always free!



Dave Reutter

Christensen's Plant Center
6282 Gotfredson Road
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

(734) 454-1400 voice

(734) 454-1414 fax

[***Return to Archive***](#)

