

## LIGHTING FIXTURES

Safety is an important principle to remember when planning lighting. Here are a few points to consider.

1. Can you light your way as you go from room to room?
2. Can you switch lights on or off from each doorway?
3. Can you turn on stairway lighting as you go up or down the stairs?
4. Can you light entrances as you enter?
5. Can you control the garage or carport lighting from the house?
6. Can you control outside lighting from inside the house?

Wiring should meet local building codes. Purchase only electrical lighting fixtures that have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) seal. Read and follow instructions for the use and care of fixtures.

Electrical circuits should not be overloaded. Excess loading could blow a fuse, trip a circuit breaker, or even start a fire.

There are two main types of lighting, architectural and non-architectural. Architectural lighting is planned when the building is being designed. Non-architectural lighting is lighting that can be added after the construction is completed.

There are many types of lighting fixtures:

**CEILING LUMINARIES** are fixtures that are attached to a ceiling.

**Luminous panels** light large areas evenly and may cover most of a ceiling.

**Recessed and adjustable downlights** direct lighting downward or angle it toward an area or object.

**Cornices** are mounted at the intersection of a ceiling and a wall, washing the wall in light to provide a reflected light to the room.

**Soffit lights** are usually found in bathrooms, laundries, or kitchens (over a sink, for example). They are effective task lights. The underside of the soffit is sometimes covered with a diffusing panel.

**Flush-mounted and surface-mounted fixtures** are mounted flush with, or on the surface of walls and ceilings to provide direct or indirect lighting. Although the fixtures themselves can be removed, the wiring is permanent and so they are considered architectural lighting.

**Suspended luminaries** can be hung well below the ceiling and are often adjustable in height.

**Track lighting** may be built in during or after construction. Tracks allow for great variety. Many shapes and sizes of fixtures, even pendants, can be mounted on one track to serve many purposes.

**WALL LUMINARIES** are lighting fixtures mounted to a wall. They are popular because they keep table and desk surfaces free for other things. However, they are permanently attached to the wall and may limit the hanging of pictures.

**Valances** are placed directly above windows, providing direct and indirect lighting. They emphasize the window treatments and bounce light off the ceiling and into the room.

**Brackets** are like valances, but are not placed over windows. They may be used for ambient and task lighting and may be placed high or low on the wall.

**Coves** provide a hidden trough for lighting that is directed upward. They are used to add a feeling of height or to emphasize a vaulted ceiling.

**Sconces** are mounted to the wall. They are available in many shapes and sizes. They may be used for direct or indirect lighting and are often used for decorative purposes.

**Luminous wall panels** are panels of lighting placed in the wall surface. They may imitate the feeling of natural light. The panels can be treated as windows with various window treatments.

**FLOOR AND TABLE LAMPS** are portable lighting. They are often chosen for their aesthetic features such as balance, proportion, scale, color, texture, and form.