

The Outdoor Christmas Lights Planner

A Simple Plan for Lighting the Outside of Your Home

1. Measure Your House

Walk the outside of the house in daylight and write down what you want to light.

Zone	What to measure	Your number
Roofline and gutters	Total feet of edge to outline	
Porch rail and posts	Rail length and number of posts	
Bushes and hedges	Length and height of each	
Trees	Trunk width and height to wrap	
Walkway	Path length for stakes	
Outlets	Where each outdoor outlet is	

- Add 10 percent to every length for corners and slack.
- Pick one light color and keep it across the whole house.

2. Match the Lights to the Zone

Choose lights that fit each zone and say they are made for outdoor use.

Zone	Try this	Check first
Roofline	C9 bulbs or icicle lights	Total feet and the outlet nearby
Gutters and shingles	Gutter and shingle clips	Bulb size the clip fits
Bushes	Net lights	Net size against the bush
Trees	Trunk wrap or mini lights	Trunk width and strand length
Walkway	Pathway stakes	Solar sun or plug-in power
Door and porch	Wreath, garland, curtain lights	Battery or plug-in

- Look for a UL or ETL listing, or an IP44 or higher rating, on every set.

3. Style Plan

Pick one look and repeat it so the house reads as planned.

Style	Colors	Add
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Classic	Warm white	C9 roofline, wreath and garland
Frosty	Cool white	Icicle lights and snowflakes
Traditional	Red, green and white	Candy cane pathway lights
Easy	Warm white and projection	Projector, timer and one wreath

4. Safety Checklist

- Use lights and cords rated for outdoor use.
- Plug into a GFCI outlet and do not overload a cord.
- Keep plugs and connections off the ground and out of standing water.
- Use a timer or smart plug, and turn lights off when you are away.
- Ask a helper when you use a ladder, or use clips and a pole.

5. Lights Budget

Item	Budget	Priority (1 to 3)	Bought?
Roofline lights and clips			
Bushes and trees			
Porch, door and walkway			
Cords and timer			
Total			

- Start with the roofline and a timer.
- Add bushes, trees and the walkway as the budget allows.