



"How To" Series: Pond Lighting: Enhance the Time of Enjoyment

By Rick Smith, EasyPro® Pond Products

Today's lighting options provide you with the opportunity to take your water feature and landscaping to the next level, as well as increase the daily hours of enjoyment and season-long rewards.

Imagine waking up in the morning and looking out your window to your private wonderland of water, plants and lights. Or enjoying the tranquility every evening. And for those who have snowy winters, proper lighting techniques will create a winter wonderland during the short winter days. It's easier than you might think by using today's energy-efficient LED lighting options and knowing a few impactful lighting techniques.

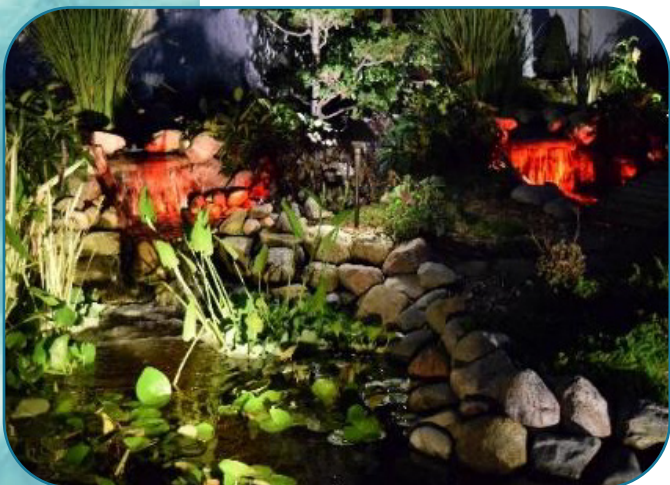
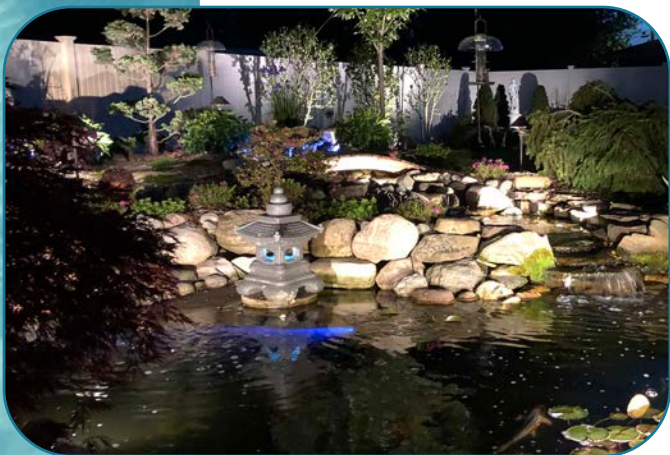
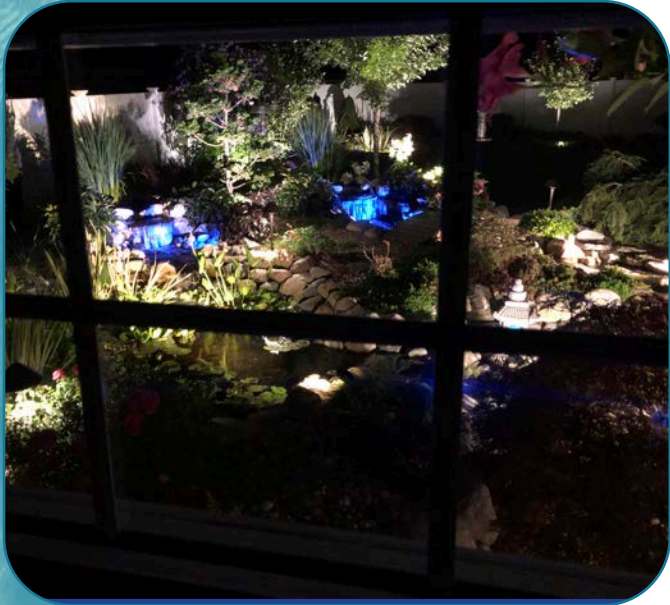
In this "How To" Series, we will explore:

- ✓ Lighting Fixture Options
- ✓ Impactful Lighting Placement
- ✓ Lighting Techniques

Pond lighting is no longer just about waterfall and underwater lighting. Today's advanced LED lights come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and brightness. In addition, LED lighting uses a fraction of the energy (1.25, 3, 4, 6, up to 18 watts) compared to the old 20 watt halogen fixtures. It is now possible to install a more dynamic design with a larger variety of lights on the same transformer.

Here's an example: Years ago, if you had a 100-watt transformer you were limited to (5) 20-watt halogen lights. Today, on that same transformer, you could run (16) 6 watt lights or an astounding (33) 3 watt lights. In addition, LED lights can provide 50 to 80,000 hours of life. Again, major savings environmentally and to the pocketbook.

In addition, the advanced LED lighting systems now make it possible to change colors with a press of a button on the remote. The easy-connect features allow for quick and easy installation by professionals or the Do-It-Yourselfer. It's easier than ever to add that "WOW" factor.



Waterfalls and Spillways

There are a large variety of lighting options for your waterfalls. So it is important to choose the proper size light to bring your waterfalls to life. In other words, selecting the correct light that is to scale for the size of the waterfall.



LED4WW



LED6WW

For Waterfalls up to 3-feet in Width

Choosing the EasyPro® 3 watt LED Light (LED4WW) or the EasyPro® 6 Watt Light (LED6WW) would be the best choice for this type of waterfall. These lights can be used underwater or in the landscape.



For Color-changing Capabilities

You will want to choose the EasyPro® Cabrio Compact Color Changing LED (CLED4SS) along with the Remote Control (CLEDRC). The Cabrio series can change automatically or stay static on your favorite color. Just place them outside the splash zone, in or out of the water, conceal and secure with rocks. The quick connect feature makes installation easy!



Underwater LED Light Strip

Another great light with multiple applications is the Underwater LED light strip. This wonderful light can be used in waterfalls and under bridges. Designed for water gardens and formal water features with hardscape spillways to add that extra accent to really make the water stand out.

Available in 11-,23- and 35-inch, you can choose from warm white, or the Cabrio series color changing LED Light strips. (Make sure to get the remote control, it has a 60-foot range.)



LED9WW



LED12WW

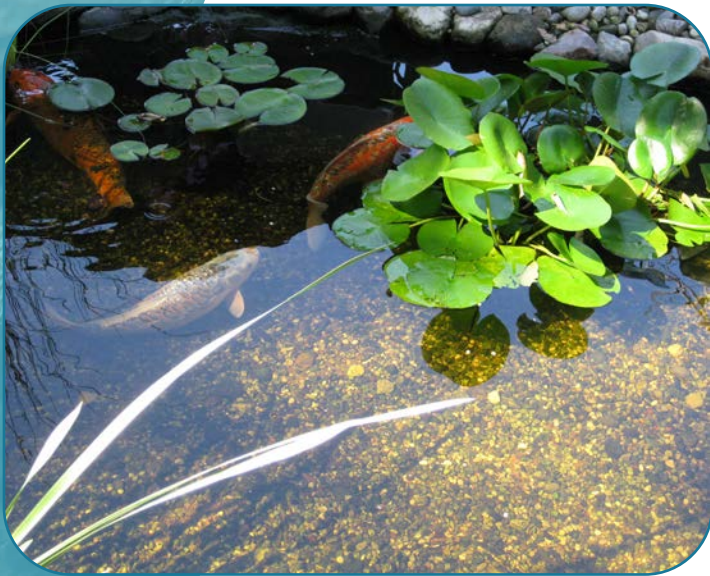


LED18WW

For Large Waterfalls and Features

Consider using a more powerful light that range from 1230 - 1380 - 2072 lumen per fixture such as the EasyPro® 9 watt (LED9WW), 12 watt (LED12WW) or 18 watt (LED18WW) LEDs. All are designed with 316 stainless steel for a longer life and have a 30-foot cord.

Underwater Lighting - Streams & Bridges



Creating additional depth and points of interest for enjoying your fish and highlighting those streams and bridges can be achieved with any of the previously discussed underwater or in landscape lighting fixtures.

Select a specific area of the pond to use underwater lighting. Doing this creates more interest and featured areas than flooding the entire pond. You can highlight plants and your fish will have the option to be in the spotlight or retreat to a darker, calmer area of the pond.

Create additional points of interest, more contrast between water and landscape plants and more mystery to your view of stream curves and features. Highlight the stream using the EasyPro® Underwater LED or the Underwater LED light strip as a down lighting technique to create those points of interest.

ADDITIONAL BENEFIT:

Pond life is all about the love of nature. Pond lighting is beneficial to pond life, frogs specifically, because they attract food for them. Frogs will set up their own territory around each of your lights.



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Water Garden & Landscape Lighting Techniques



Effective lighting designs draw from a library of lighting techniques that combine the water garden's features and landscape plantings to create the perfect amount of contrast between a point of interest and its surroundings.

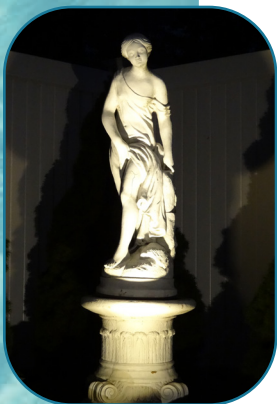
Each feature is best highlighted using a specific technique. When an area maximizes the use of these techniques in the proper combination, it instills a compatible range of emotions beginning with awe or wow, then a sense of mystery that comes from the softer lit spaces, and finally, emotions transitioning to a warm and calming place.

Highlighting

Highlighting is lighting up any feature you want to bring special attention to, such as a water feature, but is used to highlight or accent a plant like a tree. For example, a Japanese Maple, Hinoki-Cypress, Weeping Cherry or even a large Maple.

Selecting the features to highlight is your first decision to make. This is accomplished by placing a light at the base of the feature pointing up (uplighting) through the branches. Larger features may require two lights for best results.

TIP: When installing lights, make sure ONLY the effects of the lights are seen and NOT the light itself. Hide the lights in or behind plant material or conceal and secure with rocks.



Accenting

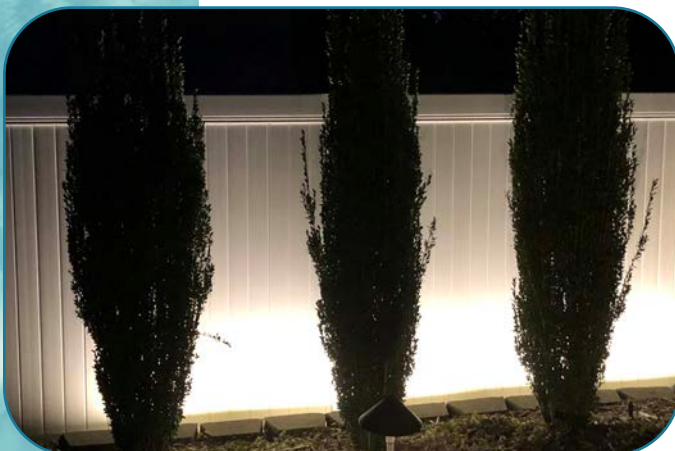
Accenting brings to focus a single feature. It may be a waterfall, pagoda, statuary, or basalt column. A narrow beam of light is directed from either (uplighting or downlighting) to primarily highlight just that feature.

Usually, the immediate surrounding area has less lighting allowing the accented feature to stand out. If lighting is used nearby, it should accent just a specific feature and leave contrast between these areas.

Silhouetting (Back lighting)

Silhouetting or backlighting provides illumination behind a statue or featured plant providing mostly just an outline of the feature. This technique is most effective when the feature is of a geometric shape. For example, these Japanese Holly Sky Needles. The light is provided by either a spotlight for a single feature, plant, or in this case, a group planting of a series of LED Light Strips aimed toward the adjacent wall or fence.

Using the remote-controlled Cabrio color-changing lights will give another level of creative effect when silhouetting.



Water Garden & Landscape Lighting Techniques

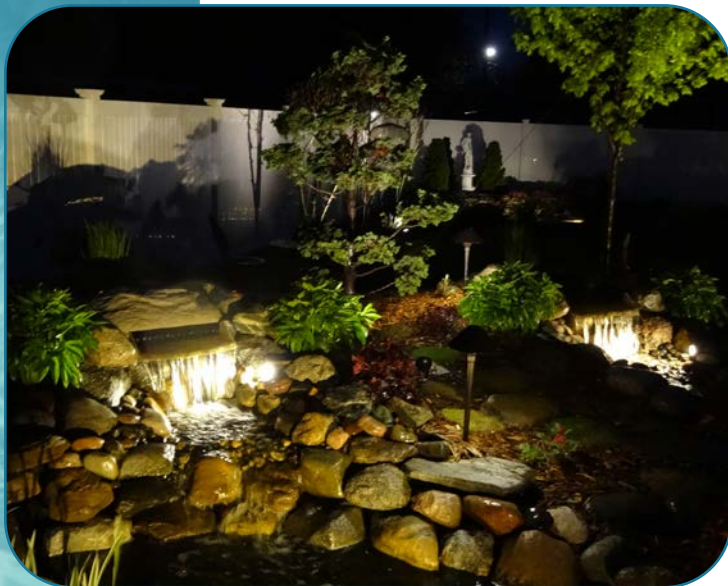


Wall Washing

Wall washing is used to create an even, soothing glow of light on a wall or pond's edge by shining a floodlight across the pond or by flooding the area from alongside the wall. (Shown in the photo on the left, just right of the pagoda.)

This technique creates a subtle ambient light evenly across the area. But notice that the highlighted features (the Maple tree, Hinoki-Cypress, Pagoda and the bridge) still stand out in contrast to the softer Wall washed area.

The lighting also fades between the wall washed area, the lit waterfall and the darker area above the waterfall. This creates contrast and a sense of mystery.



Waterfall Lighting

Illuminating a waterfall can be achieved effectively by using several different techniques by themselves or in combination.

The options are endless from accent lighting to wall washing, and/or highlighting. A spotlight, a floodlight, or an underwater light strip can also be used for illumination. Waterfalls are an open pallet for the "artist."

Add color-changing capabilities to your lighting feature by using the EasyPro® Cabrio Compact Color Changing LED (CLED4SS), along with the remote control (CLEDRC). The Cabrio series can change colors automatically or lock in your favorite color.



Pathway Lighting

Pathway lighting creates a feeling of being drawn into the pathway, as long as they are not overused and look like an airport runway.

It should be used to add low levels of contrast lighting with just enough light to softly illuminate the pathway. These lights should accent the path without overpowering the ambience you've already created with your pond lighting.

Pond Lighting Turns Winter into a Wonderland



I am not known for being a fan of those long, cold, and dark winter nights for us that live in the northern parts of the U.S. However, looking out the window and seeing a snowy wonderland lit-up, does bring an enjoyable calm.

Snow on the ground adds another dimension of contrast and coupled with the different lighting techniques, it can really "POP!"

In each of the photographs, you can notice the impact each lighting technique provides in the snowy winter. The wall washing technique is enhanced by the snow in the photo above. While the underwater lighting provides a point of interest in the photo to the left. To top it all off, the highlighting of the snow-heavy Japanese Maple trees creates a winter wonderland.

Congratulations – you have now created year-long enjoyment of your pond or water feature.



Although not all lighting techniques were covered in this "How To" series, we focused on the most used with water features. We hope you found it helpful and useful to contribute to your pond life enjoyment... all year long.



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