

# Garden Lighting Guide

Learn everything you need to know about Garden Lighting. See information on different types of lights, choosing globes and cable & even how to install your own system!

Product Guides by [SunshowerOnline](#)



## Garden Lighting

### Installing Low Voltage Lighting in your Home

12 Volt Outdoor Lighting is a great way to bring your garden to life at night. By clever positioning lights around the garden, anything can become a focal point. And you don't need an electrician to install it because it's all low voltage!

If you want your garden to look as good at night as it does during the day, garden lighting is the way to do it. But it's not just a case of placing lights where you want and flicking a switch, there are a couple of things you might want to know. What type of Lights would suit your garden the best? What sized [Globes](#) should you use? Is there a limit to the number of Lights you can have? What type or sized [Garden Lighting Cable](#) or [Transformer](#) should I use? How do I put it all together?

### Choosing the Right Garden Lights

Depending on which area of the garden you're looking at lighting up, there are a number of types of lights that can do the job. Check out the lights below to find which ones will suit you the best.



#### Spot Lights

For highlighting garden focal points like water features and flowering trees

#### Bollard Lights

Perfect for accentuating plants beside paths or driveways

#### In Ground Up Lights

Perfect for along paths or driveways and highlighting wall features

#### Wall Lights

Set into or mount on a wall to highlight architectural features

#### Submersible Pond Lights

A great way to bring ponds & water features to life at night

No matter what you need, there is a whole range of lights to choose from at SunshowerOnline, they come in a range of different designs, materials and colours.

## Selecting the Right Sized Globes

Globes for garden lighting come in a whole range of sizes and wattages. Typically, 12v Garden lights are fitted with [MR16 Globes](#) & [GY6.35 Bi-Pin Globes](#). The Wattage of a light determines how far the light can project, check out the diagram below, it's a basic visual guide to show the differences between each globe. It shows [Low Voltage Halogen Globes](#) which typically come in 3 different "Wattages", 20 Watt, 35 Watt or 50 Watt.

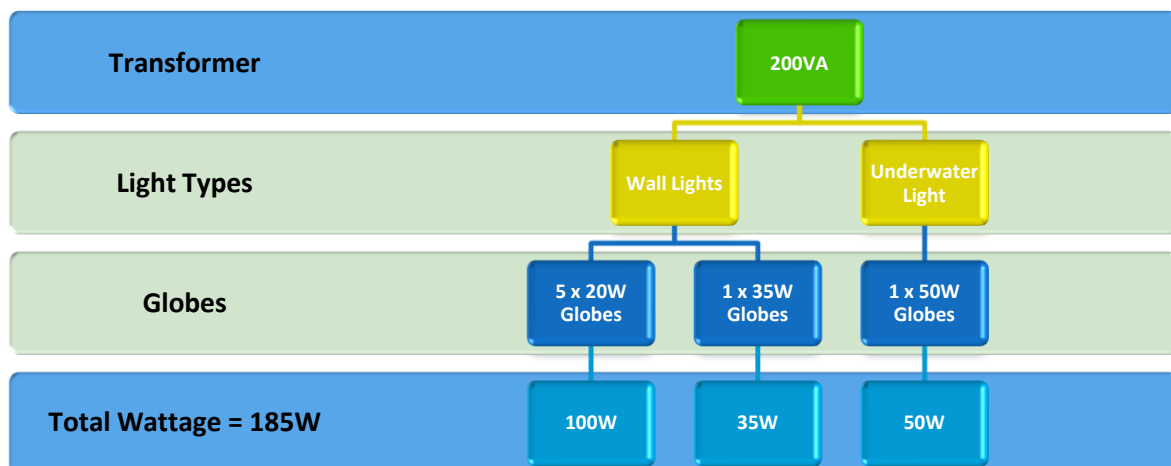


As you can see above, a 50W globe projects up about 6m, a 35W globe projects about 4m and a 20W globe about 2m.

## How Many Lights can I have?

You have a beautiful garden and you know the lights and globes you want to use, but what is the limit to how many lights you can use? And is there a limit? The answer is there is a limit, and that is dictated by the sized [Transformer](#) you use.

A Transformer is a device that plugs into a standard power point and converts your power source from 240V to the 12V used in Low Voltage Lighting. Transformers come with different VA (Volt Amp) capabilities and that determines the number of lights you can have. The VA capacity of a Transformer has to be more than the total Wattage of the lights in the circuit added together. If that's too confusing, check out the example below:



## Choosing the Right Cable

Choosing the right cable is a very important decision when designing your own garden lighting system. Because of the copper, cable can be expensive so naturally, to save a dollar or two, people want to buy the smallest cable they can.

But when choosing cable, be careful because if your cable isn't big enough, the globes won't be getting enough electricity to work. Check out the table that shows the voltage drop on the different sizes of cable over various distances. It shows how far you can run your cable depending on the total wattage your globes use and the size cable you are using.



The data for this table was sourced from Hunza Lighting. The full table can be found at [hunza.com.au](http://hunza.com.au). The chart is a guide only. No Load output voltage of the transformer may vary.

Lamp Load/Total Wattage	Distance (m)		
	Cable Size		
	4.0mm	6.0mm	10mm
20W	65	97	164
40W	32	48	81
50W	25	38	65
60W	20	32	54
70W	18	27	46
80W	16	24	40
90W	14	21	35
100W	13	19	33
120W	10	16	27
150W	8.3	13	21
200W	6.5	10	16
250W	5	8	12.6
300W	4.2	6.7	10.7

## Putting Your Garden Lights Together

You've found all of the parts, now all that's required is putting it all together. Check out the diagrams and steps below to find out just how easy it is!



### Position Your Lights

Firstly position your lights in the places you want them to be in the garden. That makes it easier to measure how long each stretch of cable will need to be.

### Lay Out Your Cable

After positioning your lights, layout out the lines of [2 Core Garden Lighting Cable](#) so they run past each light. This makes it easier to cut in your lights in the next step. Cable can be run in a variety of patterns, check out some examples below.



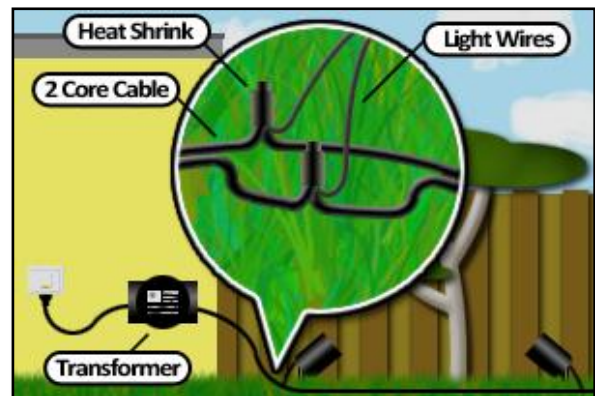
### Cut Cable & Wire in Lights

Now that the cable has been run past the lights, you can easily “Cut In” your lights. To do this, follow these steps:

First cut the cable with secateurs where it runs past the light. You'll notice the cable has 2 wires in it, to make it easier you can peel the 2 wires apart.

Next, strip the insulation layer off with Wire Strippers to expose the copper wire inside.

Now take the 2 Wires coming from your Light, strip those wires back also.



To join them all correctly, take one wire from one end of the cable, one wire from the other end and one wire from the light. Twist the wires together and join together with [Solder](#), then place a [Heat Shrink](#) over the join and apply a flame with a [Gas Torch](#) to seal the join.

### Plug in Transformer and Checkout Your New Night Garden!

Plug your Transformer into your power point and see the difference in your garden at night! Now entertain guests outside by your beautifully lit water feature or just relax and gaze out over your garden from your family room.

*SunshowerOnline sells only the highest quality Garden Lighting components we use all of the trusted brands to make sure your system works first time every time!*