

# Light up Your Holidays!

**W**ondering what goes into holiday lighting that will help your home shine and express joy and celebration this holiday season? Chris Wakefield, president of The Outdoor Lights, shares more on what it takes and what works best.

*How many lights are most effective in a nine-foot tree?*

Depending on the species of the tree, we could use 10 to 25 strings of lights or approximately 500 to 1,250 bulbs. These lights can be wrapped around the tree, wrapped on each individual limb, or both.

*Should we use multi-color lights or white lights on our tree? What about outdoors?*

Color of lights is more of a personal preference, whether indoors or outdoors. Over the past few years, multi-color lights have made a strong comeback, but white lights still create the clean, crisp feel.

*What kind of lights should we buy that will illuminate but conserve energy?*

LED lights are a huge emerging hit on the market. These lights illuminate just as well, if not better, than incandescent lights and save a ton of energy. Installation is also easier because you can connect more light strings together since

they are pulling less power. LED is a great way to go, but be prepared because they cost three to four times more than incandescent lights.

The rest of the year, Chris Wakefield works with homeowners to illuminate the beauty and elegance of their landscapes at night, extend the hours of outdoor enjoyment every day, create a more secure environment and enhance the value of their homes. Outdoor lighting, during the holidays and all year long, helps bring everyone outdoors to linger longer and enjoy nature. It is one of the

most covered trends in outdoor living.



Chris Wakefield

Holiday lights at a home in Buckhead





Holiday lights in a backyard in Buckhead

Recently, The Outdoor Lights worked with Coach Vince Dooley (of UGA fame) to light his residential property near Athens. Brian Littrell of The Backstreet Boys enjoys outdoor living with lighting work by Wakefield and his team. Keith Summerour, renowned architect, enhanced his own home's "essence" with work by The Outdoor Lights. Wakefield and his team are very intentional in their charitable support of the Foundation for

Mitochondrial Medicine with the donated sales proceeds of a custom-designed firefly lantern—a "light of hope."

All the while, the barefoot water-skiing champion who doubles as president of The Outdoor Lights ([www.theoutdoorlights.com](http://www.theoutdoorlights.com)) pursues his passion around water skiing with the same resolve that has created breathtaking outdoor displays across the Southeast—from the coast to lakeside to the country.



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