

Lighting Scenes for Your Home



A scene lighting controller recalls the perfect lighting scene at the touch of a button.

We create lighting scenes in our homes every time we switch on a group of lights at different brightness levels. For security lighting, we may switch lights on at low settings in the living room or kitchen before going out for the evening. In the home theatre, we may keep the main lights off or at a very dim setting while keeping the wall sconces on at 50% brightness to view a movie.

■Scene lighting affects decor

Today's new lighting control systems are not just for luxury homes. With the upsurge of sophisticated home entertainment technologies spurring their

popularity, scene lighting systems are making their way into the average American home. According to the Leviton Institute, carefully planned lighting can establish mood and color, control the focus of attention and enhance the beauty, functionality and resale value of your home. Many of these systems feature easy installation and programming with individual components available for as little as \$100.

■What is scene lighting?

Scene lighting is the simultaneous control of multiple lighting fixtures to independent bright levels or off. The levels are preset through a simple programming process into distinct scenes. Once the scene is set, all you do is push a scene button and all the

lights turn on at the preset level.

■Adds convenience

Scene lighting is especially convenient when there are numerous fixtures involved. Picture a kitchen, dining room and hallway where there are separate dimmers for individual fixtures. To achieve different dining "scenes" without scene lighting control, you'd have to adjust each dimmer independently. Then to select another scene, you have to go back to each dimmer and readjust it. A scene lighting system eliminates all this readjusting and you don't have to remember the position of each dimmer for a particular scene.

With scene lighting, you can set a "family" scene in the kitchen, den or living area, a home theatre scene for viewing movies, a dining scene, or a formal entertainment scene that lights outdoor pathways, uses accent lighting, art lighting and hallway lighting. At night, you can even illuminate the "path" from the bedroom to the bathroom or kitchen for people needs or the back door to let the dog or cat out.

■Hire a skilled installer

Scene lighting systems consist of a scene controller and any number of individual scene-capable dimmers. The Leviton Institute cautions that unless you're a skilled DIY'er, you may be best off hiring a contractor, electrician or home automation expert to perform your installation. ♦