

Troubleshooting low voltage Lighting

One or two bulbs aren't working: Most light bulbs are rated for 3000 hours (approximately 3 years if you use lights for 3 hours per night). Sometimes, on new installations, a couple lights go out within a short while and this is generally due to the amount of shuffling the lights have experienced.

Three or more lights in the same area are not working: In most cases, this indicates that a wire has been cut. Try to rethink who has been working in your yard digging between the location of your transformer and the lights that are out.

None of my lights are on: This is not uncommon in the first month. Many times it is a simple problem with the GFI, breaker, transformer fuse or timer. Here are different ways how to troubleshoot.

1. Take a hair dryer and see if the receptacle has power.
 - a. If there is power, then the problem may be the timer is defective or the time is set incorrectly. Please note that analog timers freeze in time if there is no power at the receptacle (ie lighting turns the house power out for 2 hours or receptacle is connected to inside light switch which was turned off).
 - b. Next remove the timer inside the transformer and see if you can get the lights to work.
2. If you do not have power, take an extension cord and connect to transformer (with timer removed) and see if the lights work.
 - a. If the lights work then the problem is the GFI or the breaker is overloaded.
 - i. Go to fuse panel and see if one breaker has been tripped. If so, try to investigate what other power is being shared with this breaker. Older houses were never designed for the amount of electronics that we are using today. (Northern Virginia has many homes with 3000+ square feet and only 1 200 amp panel).
 - ii. If the breakers are all fine, then the problem most likely is the GFI. Reset the small button between the two receptacles. If that doesn't work, it may be connected to other outlets where the GFI is tripped.
 - b. If the lights still do not work, the problem most likely resides with the transformer and it would be best to have a technician troubleshoot and fix the problem.