
Ace Lamps

A division of Direct Electrical Services

[Click here to view our website](#)

Bathroom lighting buying guide

When you look at all of the rooms in the house we think the bathroom requires the most flexible lighting arrangement. It should have enough light to allow shaving or makeup application, but you also need the relaxed lighting to take a bath in comfort.

European safety regulations are rightly rigorous stating that bathroom fittings must be completely encased to avoid shorting and electric shocks and double insulated with the lamp and all metal parts covered. See **Bathroom IP ratings on this page** for more help on how these areas in the bathroom are regulated. Don't ever be tempted to use a conventional light fitting. Light switches must either be outside of the bathroom or fitted with a pull cord. Portable lights are also not permitted in the bathroom environment.

When bathroom lighting is done well it can give a stunning effect. We advise when planning and redecorating your bathroom always consider the lighting first as you may need to put additional cabling into the walls behind tiles and you do not want to be pulling tiles off of the wall at a later stage.



BATHROOM DOWNLIGHTS [\(Click to see our range\)](#)



These are becoming increasingly popular for bathroom applications and give an excellent level of lighting and are particularly effective when used in showers. Ensure that only bathroom specific fittings with the correct IP rating is used in the relevant area.

ILLUMINATED MIRRORS [\(click to see our range\)](#)



Illuminated bathroom mirrors can add the perfect finish to any bathroom and there are lots of styles available, these can be hard wired in to a light switch on the bathroom wall or just activated by a simple pull cord. When buying an illuminated mirror take into consideration these points, is the wall strong enough to take the weight will it be easy to wire in do I want a cabinet or just a mirror.

BATHROOM CEILING LIGHTS [\(click to see our range\)](#)



Bathroom ceiling lights are available in a huge range of styles offering flush fit fittings or spotlights always be careful of the headroom available and buy a fitting allowing for this. All ceiling lights must be suitable for use in the relevant bathroom zone

BATHROOM WALL LIGHTS [\(click to see our range\)](#)



Bathroom wall lights are also available in a huge range and offer styles to match the ceiling lights you may be also buying. When buying always make sure that the fitting will be used in the relevant bathroom zone.

MIRROR LIGHTS ([click to see our range](#))



Mirror lights can be the perfect addition to a standard mirror you may already have and can be the ideal finishing touch. They can be either wired into a switch on the wall or on a pull cord.

BATHROOM IP RATINGS

Luminaires chosen for bathrooms are subject to certain wiring regulations and must be selected and erected, so as to be suitable for the external influences likely to occur at the particular point of installation. Such influences are likely to include steam, falling drops of water and sprays or jets from shower heads.

All luminaires can be assigned an IP (Ingress protection) rating. This relates to the protection afforded by the light fitting against penetration by solid particles of moisture.

The IP rating consists of 2 numbers.

The first number relates to the degree of protection against solid particles, the second to the degree of protection against moisture.

For bathroom use the second number is the most important.

For example normal household luminaires have a minimum IP rating of 20 (ie no protection against moisture)

The required IP rating for light fittings in bathrooms depends on their actual location in the bathroom. The regulations divide the bathroom into zones (see illustrations below) which determines the IP rating.

Ace Lamps, Unit 30 New Forest Enterprise Centre, Chapel Lane
Totter, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 9LA

Tel: 023 80866728

Fax: 023 80667833

www.deslamps.co.uk

We recommend that all luminaires used in a damp environment are protected with an RCD.

ZONE 0

Interior of bathtub or shower tray- IPx7 and low voltage power supply ie 12 volt.

ZONE 1

Perimeter of the bathtub or shower tray up to a height of 2.25 metres above the floor- IPx4. Use IPx5 where water jets are used for cleaning purposes.

ZONE 2

Perimeter 0.6 metres wide around zone 1 and 0.75 metres above zone 1 - IPx4. Use IPx5 where water jets are used for cleaning purposes.

ZONE 3

Perimeter 2.4 metres wide around zone 2 and 0.75 metres above zone 2- Use IPx5 where water jets are used for cleaning purposes. Otherwise no specified IP rating required, although lights should be suitable for their location and provide adequate protection against electric shock.

OUTSIDE OF ZONES

There are no stated requirements for IP. Luminaires should be suitable for their location and provide adequate protection against electric shock.

The IEE regulations do not make specific reference to wash basins, but in the opinion of the lighting association they should be treated as zone



Ace Lamps, Unit 30 New Forest Enterprise Centre, Chapel Lane
Totton, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 9LA

Tel:023 80866728

Fax: 023 80667833

www.deslamps.co.uk

