

## A Message from the President of the Youngstown Columbiana Association of REALTORS®

### Light up Your Home for Summer

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Outdoor patios are an extension of your home, perfect for gathering with guests, getting lost in a good book, or even working out. But the fun shouldn't stop when the sun goes down. You can spend more time doing what matters most by adding the perfect patio lights to your space.

How you illuminate your patio can depend on the overall design you're going for, your patio's purpose, and the amount of lighting you need. Some of the most popular outdoor patio lighting ideas include outdoor pendants, string lights, and floor lights. Here are five great options for outdoor patio lights.

1. **String lights and rope lights** are small electric lights placed along a cable and used indoors and outdoors. They're ideal for stringing along your patio and deck railing, in your tree branches, or along the walls of your home. You can purchase string or rope lighting with heavy-duty wiring and sockets for outdoor use.
2. **Outdoor pendant lights**, also called drop or suspender lights, are hanging pendants suspended by a cord or chain. They can instantly enhance your outdoor patio with little effort. Outdoor pendant lights are available in many sizes, including full-length, large, mini, and lantern.
3. **Outdoor table lights and floor lights** are decorative and functional ways to illuminate an outdoor living space. These lamps provide the perfect ambiance for a family get-together or an intimate dinner.
4. **Pathway lighting** is best for illuminating a walkway that leads to your patio. You can also use pathway lights to brighten driveways and footpaths or as a simple and affordable way to accent your patio steps or highlight shrubbery and flowerbeds.
5. **Uplighting** is the effect when you place light fixtures on the ground and point them up to enhance specific landscape or architectural features. It's a great way to emphasize your manicured landscape and garden in your backyard and shine a light on your patio area, too.

There are almost limitless creative techniques for setting up your patio lights, from DIY projects to energy-efficient lighting. Today's top trends include high-level lighting with pre-strung and pendant lights, tabletop lighting with candles, DIY lanterns, and tabletop fireplaces.

In no time, you can light up your summer nights by transforming your simple outdoor patio space into something extraordinary, all while reflecting your personal style.

*Michael Stevens is the 2023 President of the Youngstown Columbiana Association of REALTORS®*