

# ORMROD ELECTRIC

Lighting & Electrical Distributor

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## **Before You Begin**

Since moving to our present site in Chiswick in 1986, Ormrod Electric has grown to be one of the UK's leading wholesale distributors for low voltage lighting and electrics, working with organisations such as The Science Museum, the Ministry of Defence, British Home Stores, K Shoes, Hambros Bank, SG Warburg and many major architectural and design practices as well as restaurants, hotels, airlines, and motor manufacturers. We are also consulted on set lighting for film and TV productions, and the floodlighting of monuments and listed buildings. We have even advised on, and supplied critical support switchgear for some of the very largest computer networks in the world.

We know from experience that the lighting design problems, and the solutions, which face people in a domestic context are essentially similar to those facing a big company. We have therefore prepared this guide with the aim of passing on to you the benefit of our wide and varied experience in tackling these problems for our corporate clients.

Successful lighting design, as with all other interior design projects, depends upon a fusion of elements of practicality, attractiveness and of course, cost. In order to satisfy all these criteria it is vital that you plan ahead.

We hope that by using these pages as a blueprint for your own particular project, we can help you to save time and money. We believe that with our help you can achieve the most elegant and practical solutions for your individual needs.

### **First, remember the basics of planning:**

- Be well prepared at the first meeting with your electrician or builder. This will enable him to organise his schedule of work to suit you most effectively.
- Being well prepared keeps costs down. Making changes later on will almost certainly lead to delays in completion, and extra costs.
- Discuss possible future needs with your contractor at the outset. He can often put in the groundwork at an early stage for later completion.
- Manage your project effectively. Keep and file any invoices for future reference, and in case you need to replace any parts under warranty.

### **Some General Points to Consider**

Before you get down to detail, there are a number of general points to consider about your property, which may have a bearing upon the direction that you take. For instance:

- Are your ceilings cast concrete? If so, this could limit your lighting options.
- All wall-mounted dimmers and low voltage transformers generate some noise, particularly at low settings, but this can usually be kept to acceptable levels. Your electrician can provide guidance on this based upon your particular wall/ceiling construction and room acoustics.

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He may recommend acoustic pads, for instance, to limit transformer noise in a ceiling.

- Before laying carpets or flooring on upper floors bear in mind that downlighter installation is easiest done from above, so you may wish to wait until your lighting is installed before laying floor coverings.
- Fire, Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms are now usually compulsory.
- Electrical accessories (i.e. switches, sockets etc.) come in a vast range of finishes and at many budget levels.
- When installing a new fuse board, there are several points you should remember:
  1. It should be easily accessible.
  2. Allow for the addition of 1 or 2 extra circuits at a later date.
  3. A torch or rechargeable torch nearby is a great help should a circuit breaker trip out. (It is not uncommon for a bulb to trip a circuit breaker as it fails.)
  4. Residual Current Devices (RCD s) provide enhanced protection from electric shock, and are an important consideration if there are young children in the house and especially if an electric shower is to be installed.

We do not recommend connecting overhead lighting or fridge/freezers to the RCD.

- If you are planning a loft conversion, or installing ceilings under a flat roof, remember that in certain circumstances it may not be possible to install low voltage downlights in these areas. Heat build-up under the roof in summer can cause the transformers to shut down — be guided by your electrician.
- A general rule of good lighting practice is to light vertical surfaces as these are in one's natural field of vision when entering any area. Adjustable low voltage downlights are a very valuable tool in this respect.

## **Front Door and Garden**

### 1. Lighting

Convenience and Security are the points to consider here.

- An external socket could be useful if you use a hedge trimmer, or a vacuum cleaner to clean out your car.
- Porch light — a normal light that can be switched on in or outside the house.
- Security light — this could be movement activated, or set to come on at dusk and go off at day break

## **Entrance Hall**

### 1. Lighting

Wall Lights Picture Lights Under Cupboard Lights  
Track Lighting Table Lights Fluorescent Lights

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Wire Lights Desk Lights Mirror Lights  
Recessed Lights Floor Standing Shower Lights  
Pendant Lights Step Lights Wardrobe Lights  
Bedside Lights

## 2. Sockets, Switches etc.

- Do you need light switches by the front door, at the staircase top, or by the kitchen door?
- Site your sockets for practicality. How long is your vacuum cleaner flex? Do you need sockets at the top and bottom of the staircase?

Dimmer Switches Double Sockets Single Sockets  
Light Switches Phone Point Phone Socket

## Notes

### Stairs and Landing

#### 1. Lighting

- Depending on budget, Step lights (i.e, lights recessed into the wall just above the treads of the stairs) may be worth considering. These can either be low output so they can be left on through the night, or higher output to complement a more comprehensive lighting scheme.
- Lights sited directly over the stairs may be impractical, awkward, or even dangerous when it comes to re-lamping.

Wall Lights Picture Lights Pendant Lights  
Track Lighting Table Lights Fluorescent Lights  
Wire Lights Step Lights Recessed Lights

## 2. Sockets, Switches etc.

- Would a power socket adjacent to the stairs be useful for hoovering? Is your bathroom carpeted, in which case you may need a socket outside.

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Double Sockets  
Light Switches Single Sockets

## Notes

### Sitting Room

#### 1. Lighting

- It is sometimes not a good idea to have all your lights recessed, as this can give the room rather a commercial shoplike feel. Ideally any recessed low voltage lighting should be pinhole type where the lamp is set back into the ceiling to reduce glare. (Remember that installation

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from above is usually easier and therefore cheaper).

- Supplement low voltage downlights with table lamps and/or wall lights to accentuate that comfortable look.
- Dimmer switches enable one to create a variety of "mood scenes".
- Depending on budget, multi-channelled "Scene setting" dimmers enable one to preset several "scenes" which can be activated at the press of a button.

Wall Lights Picture Lights Under Cupboard Lights

Track Lighting Table Lights Desk Lights

Wire Lights Recessed Lights

Pendant Lights Floor Standing

## Notes

### Sitting Room

2. Sockets, Switches etc

- Consider the positioning of telephones, TV, video recording equipment, stereo system, table lamps, floor standing lamps. Where will you site the Christmas tree with its fairy lights? Do you need extra sockets for cleaning equipment?
- You may need an extra socket near the phone for a lamp or computer socket.
- In a very large room you may consider putting in recessed floor sockets or accessory boxes.
- You can install separate lighting socket circuits for table and floor lamps switched from near the door.

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Phone Point

Light Switches TV/Satellite Phone Socket

Single Sockets Floor Sockets Modem Socket

Double Sockets Printer/Fax Socket

Computer Sockets (RJ45)

## Notes

### Dining Room/Area.

1. Lighting

If you intend having a pendant light over the dining table, consider having this switched separately from the other lighting in the room.

Picture lights and/or wall lights .

Wall Lights Picture Lights Recessed Lights

Track Lighting Table Lights Pendant Lights

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Wire Lights Desk Lights Floor Standing

2. Sockets, switches, etc.

- Do you have a sideboard — do you want a lamp or a plate warmer on it?

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Floor Sockets

Light Switches Double Sockets TV/Satellite

Single Sockets

## Notes

### Study

1. Lighting

- Consider where your desk will be and make sure that your computer screen is free from glare, either from a room light or a sunny window.

Wall Lights Picture Lights Recessed Lights

Track Lighting Table Lights Pendant Lights

Wire Lights Desk Lights Floor Standing

2. Sockets, switches etc.

- Is everything within easy reach?
- Do you have enough sockets to run all your office equipment? Trailing flexes can be unsightly and a nuisance.

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Modem Socket

Light Switches TV/Satellite Printer/Fax Socket

Single Sockets Phone Point Floor Sockets

Double Sockets Phone Socket

Computer Sockets (RJ45)

## Notes

### Kitchen

1. Lighting

- Remember that track lighting can collect dust and grease.
- Fluorescent lights are usually the best solution for under cupboard lighting as they are long-lasting, and do not cast shadows.
- Bear in mind that low voltage under cupboard lights can be very awkward when it comes to re-lamping.
- While tungsten striplights are cheap to install under cupboards, they are very expensive to

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run, and have a short lamp life.

- Consider how you like to work, and don't forget safety. Make sure that the light over your work surface is bright and free from shadows.

Wall Lights Picture Lights Under Cupboard Lights  
Track Lighting Table Lights Fluorescent Lights  
Wire Lights Desk Lights Pendant Lights  
Recessed Lights Floor Standing

## Notes

### Kitchen

2. Sockets, switches etc.

- Sockets — you need plenty of them along the work surface. Consider how many appliances you like to have out permanently ready for use, and allow extra sockets for occasional-use appliances.
- You may wish to install a socket where you do your ironing — consider having the socket at the same level as the ironing board.

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Phone Point  
Light Switches TV/Satellite Phone Socket  
Single Sockets Double Sockets Floor Sockets  
Modem Socket Printer/Fax Socket Iron  
Computer Sockets (RJ45) Microwave  
Fridge/Freezer Hob (Gas/Electric?) Waste Disposal  
Switch Garden/Back Door Lights Extractor  
Washing Machine/Tumble Dryer Dishwasher

## Notes

### Laundry Room

1. Lighting

- This is a working room and it is therefore important that your lighting will enable you to see what you are doing safely and efficiently, for instance if you plan to use the room for ironing.

Wall Lights Wire Lights Under Cupboard Lights  
Track Lighting Recessed Lights Fluorescent Lights  
Pendant Lights

3. Sockets, switches, etc.

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Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Fridge/Freezer  
Light Switches Iron  
Single Sockets Double Sockets  
Switch Garden/Back Door Lights  
Washing Machine/Tumble Dryer

- Consider what appliances you will use here. Make sure that the socket for the iron is in a position that makes this job comfortable and easy. A socket at ironing board level can be practical.

## Notes

### Cellar

#### 1. Lighting

- Good practical lighting on the stairs is first and foremost.
- If you use the cellar as a workroom, good bright lighting is very important, especially as there is usually little or no natural light. Make sure that your workbench is not in shadow, as this can be dangerous.
- The wine cellar will also need a good light so that you can read the labels and tasting notes!

Wall Lights Track Lighting Under Cupboard Lights  
Fluorescent Lights

#### 2. Sockets, switches etc.

- Position the main light switch at the top of the stairs.
- Sockets for any equipment that you may wish to use.

Dimmer Switches Single Sockets  
Light Switches Double Sockets

### Under-Stairs cupboard

- Adequate light is essential here, both for practicality and safety.

## Notes

### Conservatory

#### 1. Lighting

- Any lighting here is best directed downwards, not up towards the roof and sky, where its

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benefit will be lost.

- Consider diffusing wall lights, not plaster uplighters.
- Is it possible to fix track lighting to the roof glazing bars?
- Is a "high-wire" system a practical proposition?

Wall Lights Pendant Lights Desk Lights  
Track Lighting Table Lights Floor Standing  
Wire Lights Recessed Lights

## 2. Sockets, switches etc

- If your conservatory is not centrally heated, you may wish to use a fan heater from time-to-time. Also, would you need a cooling fan in the summer?
- A powerful extractor fan may be worth considering.

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating TV/Satellite  
Light Switches Floor Sockets Phone Point  
Single Sockets Double Sockets Phone Socket

## **Garden**

- There are 3 issues to consider here: security, amenity and decorative lighting.
- Consider infra-red activated security lighting to deter would be burglars
- If you are considering security lighting only, and you like to sit outside on a summer s evening, don t forget that security lights can be uncomfortably bright.
- Outside sockets are useful for lawnmowers, lamps or other occasional equipment. These must be weatherproof, and should be protected by an RCD and may be controlled by a switch inside the house.

## **Bathroom**

- It is most important to remember that electrical points and appliances in bathrooms are governed by very strict safety rules.

### 1. Lighting

- Recessed low voltage, and/or wall lights are the first choice.
- Good mirror lighting is very important. A recessed low voltage light above the mirror can be very unflattering, so it is better to mount any mirror lighting either above or to the sides of the mirror.

Wall Lights Shower Lights Under Cupboard Lights  
Recessed Lights Mirror Lights Fluorescent Lights

### 2. Sockets, switches etc.

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- No sockets (other than approved shaver sockets) or light switches (apart from pull-switches) are permitted in a bathroom, so any dimmer switches must be sited outside the room.
- Remember also that if your bathroom has a carpet you will need a socket nearby.
- You may require a heated towel rail, or wish to install underfloor heating.

Outside Dimmer Switches Shaver Sockets  
Light Pull Switches Underfloor Heating Towel Rail

## Notes

### Bedroom - Master

#### 1. Lighting

- Consider installing wardrobe lights that turn on when you open the door.
- A vanity unit or other make-up mirror should have adequate lighting that does not throw shadows, but is equally not too bright.

Wall Lights Picture Lights Under Cupboard Lights  
Track Lighting Table Lights Wardrobe Lights  
Wire Lights Desk Lights Mirror Lights  
Recessed Lights Floor Standing Bedside Lights  
Pendant Lights

#### 2. Sockets, switches etc.

- You probably need switches by the door and by the bedside, with bedside lights treated separately to overhead lighting. Perhaps you also have a trouser press that needs a socket.

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Floor Sockets  
Light Switches TV/Satellite Phone Point  
Single Sockets Double Sockets Phone Socket

## Notes

### Bedroom

#### 1. Lighting

Wall Lights Picture Lights Under Cupboard Lights  
Track Lighting Table Lights Fluorescent Lights  
Wire Lights Desk Lights Mirror Lights  
Recessed Lights Floor Standing Shower Lights  
Pendant Lights Step Lights Wardrobe Lights

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Bedside Lights

3. Sockets, switches etc

Dimmer Switches Underfloor Heating Shaver Sockets

Light Switches TV/Satellite Towel Rail

Single Sockets Phone Point Floor Sockets

Double Sockets Phone Socket Printer/Fax Socket

Computer Sockets (RJ45) Modem Socket

## Notes

For more information on any of the specific products mentioned here, please visit our website at [www.ormrod.com](http://www.ormrod.com)

For a list of electrical contractors, who we know to be both reliable and fair, and of whom we have had many good reports please visit our website.

Please note that for legal liability reasons this list is offered for information only.