



Low Voltage FAQs

Common Questions about Low Voltage LED Installation

Q: Where do I position the strip light under the cabinet for maximum light?

A: The ideal location is 3-4 inches back from the front of the cabinet box without the doors. This will cast the 120 degree light to the front edge of the counter top after the light rail is installed. Our SMD task lights are sent with 2 sets of mounting clips. One set for straight down lighting and the other for turning the fixture 30 degrees. This will allow you to adjust the amount of light you require in your work area.

Q: What kind of wire do I use?

A: You want to feed the lights with 18 gauge low voltage wire. All of our single colour under cabinet lights and puck lights require 18/2. If you are installing our CCT SMD under cabinet lights or CCT pucks they will require 18/3. All RGB colour changing lights require 18/4. We have made a recommendation to our contractors and electricians that they run a 5 leg, 18 gauge thermostat wire whenever low voltage wiring is required. By doing this you will always have the option to use any of the LED low voltage lights we sell. The cost difference is minimal and the labour to install the same.

Q: What is the best way to splice the low voltage wire when there are no connectors on the ends?

A: A crimp connector works well and is also readily available in the same stores as the wire. If you would like to purchase a small quantity from us we have packaged them in bags of 12 connectors.

Q: Can low voltage wire be buried behind tile?

A: Yes. A quick and easy way to run the wire is to cut a small groove in the drywall and push the wire in flush with the wall. One coat of drywall tape and mud will seal it all up. We use a cut off jig saw blade that cuts the groove but will not puncture the vapor barrier. A good way to think of it is that you can run this wire anyplace you would run speaker wire.

Q: Why didn't some of the lights turn on?

A: Most likely there is a crossed wire at the first light that did not light. With a low voltage connection you have to keep the + and - consistent from the LED driver (power supply) to the last light connection. + and - are marked on the end of the strip task lights. Polarity is very important with LED low voltage lights



Q: What size hole is needed for the LLC07 low voltage recessed cabinet lights?

A: Drill an 1 3/4 inch hole and the spring-loaded light will snap right in. The optional trim ring adds a very nice finishing touch. You should drill the hole from the inside of the cabinet to assure a clean-cut. Be sure you hold the drill straight so the light does not bind when inserted into the hole. Use of the trim ring is optional.

Q: Can I use the same LED driver for 2 lighting circuits?

A: No, each lighting circuit needs its own driver if you want to switch them separately. Two sections of lights can be connected to the same driver if they are to be switched together.

Q: How do I know what size driver to use?

A: Just add up the watts of the lights you will be using. You can find the wattage of our low voltage lights listed in the technical spec section of the product page.. The total watts for all the lights on the circuit should not exceed 85% of the total watts of the driver. Our LED constant voltage drivers are stocked in 10W, 25W, 30W, 40W, 60W, 75W and 132W.. All of the drivers we sell are constant voltage units. Larger sizes are available by request. If you have any questions about this please give us a call at 1.800.677.2698

Q: Can my lights be dimmed?

A: Almost all of our low voltage lights can be dimmed. You have 2 options to dim them. You can add a 12V dimmer to the low voltage output of the driver and dim them from the 12V side. There are several styles of 12V dimmers to choose from.

The other option is to dim the lights from the AC line voltage side using a dimmable magnetic transformer designed for dimming LED Lights. We stock these in 20, 40, 60 and 100W sizes. You would replace your wall switch with a magnetic low voltage dimmer for this driver to work. The dimmers are sold in some box stores or at electrical supply houses. There is a dimmer compatibility list for your reference and available as a PDF download listing all the makes and model numbers approved for use with these drivers. Use of a dimmer not on this list will void the warranty of the driver.

Q: You mention in the product description that the SMD Task lights can be trimmed to size to accommodate any size cabinet. How do I do that and where do I cut?

A: The SMD strips can be cut at every set of 3 lights allowing you to trim the size by about 1.50" per cut. Please refer to the cut sheet you received with the lights to be sure the light is in the proper orientation



so you cut them in the right place. There is a small black dot every 3 LEDs which indicate the cut lines. A basic mitre box and hacksaw is all you need to trim the lights. If you send your required measurements we will be glad to precut them for you and finish the cut ends.. Lights will be shipped with a copy of your plan showing where the cut lights should be installed. There is no additional charge for this service.

Q: How do I turn the lights on and off?

A: There are several options for turning the lights on and off. You could switch the line voltage side of the LED driver which will turn the driver on and off. The other option is to use one of our dimming options and turn the lights on and off on the 12V side on the driver. More information is available on the Dimming Solutions page. We also sell dimmable LED transformers that will dim any of our lights using a low voltage magnetic wall dimmer that will dim your low voltage lights from the live voltage side. Please contact us for any additional information you may require.

Q: Will you assist with the layout of lighting for my new kitchen renovation?

A: We would be glad to design a layout that would work for your project. We ask that you e-mail or fax (780.461.1979) a copy of your kitchen plan so we can determine what you will need. If you send us your plan we will custom cut your lights to perfectly fit your cabinets at no additional charge.