

BATHROOM LIGHTING GUIDE

UNDERSTANDING THE REGULATIONS

As safety regulations have developed over the years to help keep us safe and sound in our homes, so to has the variety of light fittings available to us to use in bathroom areas. When looking specifically at bathroom lighting for a project, you might come across terminology such as 'IP Rating' or 'Zone 1 Lighting', which can prove rather daunting if you're not familiar with it.

Starting with IP Ratings, this actually refers to the 'Ingress Protection' of a light fitting from dust and water. Generally this means the higher the IP Rating, the more protection the light has against water or dust. The handy chart to the right helps to explain the numbers you might see in technical specifications of various lights.

IP Ratings are then categorised into three zones, so when you are planning a change to the lighting in your bathroom, you should be looking for the correct zone for where you would like to place the light.

Each zone has a different minimum rating of IP you can place in it, and this is dependent on how near or far it is from a source of water.

Zone 0

Within the bath or shower tray.

All lights fitted within this area must be IP68 rated and low voltage

Zone 1

Above the bath or shower to a height of 2.25m.

All lights fitted within this area must be a minimum of IP44 rated.

IP44 is suitable when there is no shower head above the bath.

IP65 is required if there is a shower head or a de-mountable shower head in use

Zone 2

60cm outside of zone 1 and 60cm radius above washstands.

All lights fitted within this area should be a minimum of IP44 rated, unless there is a danger of direct jet spray in which case IP65 rating is required.

The drawing below shows you these zones.

IP RATING CHART

I	P	6	5
Ingress Protection			
Solid object			
1	Protected against a solid object greater than 50mm		
2	Protected against a solid object greater than 12.5mm		
3	Protected against a solid object greater than 2.5mm		
4	Protected against a solid object greater than 1mm		
5	Dust protected		
6	Dust tight		
Moisture			
1	Protected against vertical falling drops of water. Limited ingress permitted		
2	Protected against vertical falling drops of water with enclosure tilted to 15 degrees of vertical. Limited ingress permitted		
3	Protected against sprays of water up to 60 degrees of vertical. Limited ingress permitted		
4	Protected against water splashes from all directions. Limited ingress permitted		
5	Protected against jets of water. Limited ingress permitted		
6	Protected against powerful jets of water. Limited ingress permitted		
7	Watertight against effects of immersion in water between 15cm & 1m for 30 minutes		
8	Watertight against effects of immersion in water for long periods		

