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[Christmas Lights](#)



[Christmas Trees](#)



[Christmas Decorations](#)

[Home](#) > [Commercial Christmas Decorations](#) > [Commercial Christmas Lights](#) > [Patio String Lights and Bulbs](#) > [Outdoor Patio String Lights](#) > [Hanging Christmas Lights](#)

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Quick Search



Quick Picks

- [Christmas Lights Sale](#)
- [Christmas Trees Sale](#)
- [Christmas Lights](#)
- [Christmas Trees](#)
- [What's Hot](#)

Christmas Lights

- [Battery Powered Lights](#)
- [Bubble Lights](#)
- [C7, C9 Lights](#)
- [Icicle Lights](#)
- [LED Lights](#)
- [Light Clips](#)
- [Mini Lights](#)
- [Net Lights](#)
- [Rope Light](#)
- [Candles](#)
- [Yard Decorations](#)

Christmas Trees

- [Trutip Trees](#)
- [Commercial Trees](#)
- [Favorite Trees](#)
- [Premium Trees](#)
- [Walkway Trees](#)
- [Christmas Tree Finder](#)
- [Christmas Wreaths](#)
- [Christmas Garland](#)

Resources

- [Christmas Lights Power Consumption](#)
- [Hanging Christmas Lights](#)



Hanging Christmas Lights

The DIY Resource to Hanging Christmas Lights Like a Pro



Hanging Christmas Lights

Hanging Christmas lights like a pro can be accomplished by anyone, regardless of skill level and experience. With the proper tools and steps, any beginner can successfully light up the exterior of a home.

Browse our selection of [Christmas lights](#), clips and power cords, or call our professional sales team at 866-962-7382 for help in finding everything you need to be successful in hanging Christmas lights.

Quick Links

- [Christmas Light Clips Chart](#)
- [Shop Christmas Lights](#) - C7/C9 Bulbs, LEDs, Minilights, Hanging Icicle Lights and more
- [Shop Christmas Light Clips](#)

1 Step 1 in Hanging Christmas Lights - Have Proper Materials

Materials for hanging Christmas lights include the following:

- Sturdy ladder - tall enough to safely reach the highest level to be decorated
- Bucket to hang from ladder and hold materials
- Proper Christmas light clips
- Outdoor extension cord
- Outdoor timer



Outdoor Timer

2 Step 2 - The Professionals Always Measure

Professional light installers always have a tape measure handy. There is no other way to accurately determine how many lights will be needed, and what lengths in string lights to use. Start by measuring at the base of the house, going along any turns and corners. Measure doors and door frames, window frames, and any columns that will be lit. If hanging Christmas lights on peaks, climb carefully up a ladder and measure along the area of peak to be decorated.

3 Step 3 - Consider Design



Hanging Icicle Lights

Begin by studying the roofline, gutters, and shingles. Christmas lights can be installed on any of these surfaces, but there are specific clips for each type of surface. Inspect how thick the gutter lip is, and how loose or tight the shingles on the roof are. Do the gutters get in the way of the shingles?

Locate power sources. Most new homes are equipped with outdoor power sources, but older homes may need to use an indoor power source, with the power cord coming through a window. Measure how many feet of power cord will be required to extend from the power source to the beginning of the roofline.

This step is vital. This is the step where design begins, and limitations are found. When hanging Christmas lights, there are many obstacles that will surprise the first time installer, but if planned correctly, every limitation or obstacle is easy to overcome.

4 Step 4 - Choose Which Christmas Lights are Best

Christmas lights are available in a large assortment of sizes, shapes, and colors. Deciding which bulb to use is a combination of both functionality and personal preference.

Popular Christmas lights for hanging on the roof or gutter are icicle lights and C7 and C9 bulbs. Icicle lights are mini light strands with shorter light strands that drop down at different lengths, creating the appearance of dripping icicles. C7 bulbs are much larger, measuring 2.5" tall, or the size of a nightlight bulb. C9 bulbs are often called retro bulbs and measure 3" tall, making them easy to see from the road.

C7 and C9 bulbs and stringers can be purchased separately or as pre-lamped light strings. Purchasing bulbs and stringers separately has many advantages, including better selection in wire color, easy replacements of bad bulbs, and ability to change out bulb colors

each season. For large or custom lighting projects, purchase a spool and cut wire as needed, keeping in mind that a shorter runs of lights is easier to handle when perched on a ladder.

Shop [Christmas Lights](#) now, or continue to Step 5

5 Step 5 - Calculate Power Wattage

To calculate how much power will be used in hanging Christmas lights, begin by deciding on bulb spacing. The most popular spacing between bulbs is 12" and 15" for the roof. If the bulbs are too close together, the lights from the bulbs will blend.

Lighting professionals calculate power wattage to prevent overloading the circuit or blowing a fuse. To determine [Christmas light wattage](#), multiply the wattage of the bulb by the number of sockets, and divide by 115 to reach total amps. For example, 5 watt bulbs x 125 sockets / 115 = 5.43 amps. The total amps must be less than 10% of the total amps the wire is rated for. Using the wattage in our example, a wire rated for 7amps will work, but a wire rated for 5 amps would require a shorter run.

6 Step 6 - Christmas Light Clips

Choosing the best [Christmas light clips](#) for the project is key. There is a large selection of clips for every application in hanging Christmas lights, whether hanging Christmas lights from gutters, high peaks, flat roof tops, siding, paint, or brick. Study which clips will work best with the roofline, shingles, or gutters, and pay attention to which bulb sockets will fit in each clip. All-in-one clips are a great pick because they work with the largest variety of bulbs and applications.

It's usually better to attach Christmas lights to the clips on the ground, climbing carefully up the ladder with only one string of lights at a time. Take caution not to let bulbs hit the ladder or walls while climbing on the ladder to prevent bulbs getting broken during installation.

7 Step 7 in Hanging Christmas Lights - Turn the Lights On

The final step in hanging Christmas lights is to turn the power on and admire the view. Look for any bulbs that may not be lit, and ensure they are screwed in tightly, replacing if necessary. Set an outdoor timer to turn the lights on daily at dusk, and either turn off at midnight (a popular time), or the next morning. Most timers shut outdoor lights between 11pm and midnight to save on energy, yet stay on late enough for everyone who drives by to enjoy. Don't forget to take pictures and email customerservice (at) ChristmasLightsEtc.com so we can enjoy and post as well!



C7 Christmas Lights Hanging on Gutter



All-in-One Light Clip



House Decorated with Christmas Lights

Use our [Christmas Light Clips Guide](#) to find the best clip for your applications.

Working with mostly gutters? [How to Install Christmas Light Clips on Gutters](#)

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Christmas Lights



Christmas Trees



Christmas Decorations



[Home](#) > [Accessories](#) > [Christmas Light Clips & Hangers](#) > [Multipurpose/All-in-one Clips](#) > [Christmas Light Clips Guide](#)

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Quick Search



Christmas Lights

- Battery Powered Lights
- Bubble Lights
- C7, C9 Lights
- Icicle Lights
- LED Lights
- Light Clips
- Mini Lights
- Net Lights
- Rope Light
- Candles
- Yard Decorations

Quick Picks

- [Christmas Lights Sale](#)
- [Christmas Trees Sale](#)
- [Christmas Lights](#)
- [Christmas Trees](#)
- [What's Hot](#)

Resources

- [Christmas Light Clips Chart](#)
- [Christmas Light Clips Guide](#)
- [Hanging Christmas Lights](#)
- [How to Hang Christmas Lights from Gutters](#)



Christmas Light Clips Guide



Install Lights Like a Professional with Christmas Light Clips

Hang your Christmas lights like a pro this year! Our selection in top quality LED Christmas lights have caught the attention of Fox News, CNN, HGTV, CBS and more. Now you can buy your Christmas lights where the pros buy theirs, and hang the best Christmas lights in town! Take advantage of the installation secrets our sales team has learned from years of working with commercial lighting professionals.

Hanging Christmas lights properly requires the right Christmas light clips. Clips are available for every application, from hanging mini lights to larger C9 bulbs, and can be mounted almost anywhere.

Christmas Light Clip Image	Light Clip	Light Style	Application	Installation Tips
	Regular All-in-One Clip • Versatile Application • Holds C7, C9, Mini • Holds Icicle Lights	• Standard C7 • Standard C9 • Mini • Icicle	• Shingles • Gutters • Siding	• Fold over end of clip to secure • Use extra space for hanging icicles • Apply extra space for hanging icicles
	All-in-One Plus Clip • Versatile Application • Holds C7, C9, Mini • Holds Icicle Lights	• Standard C7 • Standard C9 • Mini • Icicle	• Shingles • Gutters • Siding	• Fold over end of clip to secure • Use extra space for hanging icicles • Apply extra space for hanging icicles
	Omni All-in-One Clip • Versatile Application • Holds C7, C9, Mini • Holds Icicle Lights	• Standard C7 • Standard C9 • Mini • Icicle	• Shingles • Gutters • Siding	• Fold over end of clip to secure • Use extra space for hanging icicles • Apply extra space for hanging icicles
	C Style All-in-One Clip • Versatile Application • Holds C6, C7, C9, Mini • Holds Icicle Lights	• Standard C6 • Standard C7 • Standard C9 • Mini • Icicle	• Shingles • Gutters • Siding	• Fold over end of clip to secure • Use extra space for hanging icicles • Apply extra space for hanging icicles
	Tile All-in-One Clip • Versatile Application • Holds C6, C7, C9, Mini • Holds Icicle Lights	• Standard C6 • Standard C7 • Standard C9 • Mini • Icicle	• Shingles • Gutters • Siding	• Fold over end of clip to secure • Use extra space for hanging icicles • Apply extra space for hanging icicles

View our [Christmas Light Clips Chart](#) on page 5

Use Christmas light clips to mount lights on:

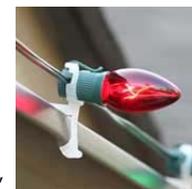
- Shingles
- Roof lines
- Gutters
- Tile
- Flat roofs
- High peaks
- Siding
- Brick
- Windows

Christmas light clips are generally removable after the season ends, with a few exceptions typically only used in commercial applications. Depending on how clips are installed, most Christmas light clips can face bulbs vertically or horizontally.

All-in-One Clips:

All-in-one clips are a great clip to use for hanging lights on shingles, tile roofs and gutters, and have a tab that can be folded over to secure the clip in shutters and along gutters with extra space. All-in-one clips work with prelampeed C7 and C9 strings, icicles, mini lights, C6 and more, and can be removed at the end of the season.

- **Regular All-in-One clips** are our best selling Christmas light clips. They secure C7 and C9 sockets in the larger clip opening, and C6 and mini light sockets use the smaller clip opening. The smaller opening is created by squeezing the ends of the clip until they overlap.
- **All-in-One Plus clips** are similar in design to the Regular All-in-One clip, plus they have a hook to hang icicle lights. Simply snap the C7 or C9 socket into the larger clip opening, or hang icicle lights from the hook. All-in-One Plus clips can also be used to hold mini lights and smaller C6 Christmas lights in the same way as regular All-in-One clips - squeeze the ends of the larger opening until they overlap and form a smaller opening.
- **Omni All-in-One clips** are similar in functionality to All-in-One Plus clips, but the design is different, with the opening facing the opposite direction of the regular and All-in-One Plus clips. The Omni clip has an opening for both the smaller sockets for C6 and mini lights as well as the C7 and C9 opening, with a hook for hanging icicles. The Omni All-in-One clip also has a serrated edge for a tight fit under shingles and gutters.
- **LED All-in-One clips** are designed specifically for prelampeed C7 and C9 LED Christmas light strings, which have smaller sockets than the standard C7 and C9 socket. All-in-One clips have an additional opening for hanging C6 and mini lights, and a serrated edge to keep the clip secure.
- **C Style All-in-One clips** hang lights vertically, and have a 180 pivot. C Style Christmas light clips hang C6, C7, C9 and mini lights. Because of the pivot, C style clips can also hang rope light along gutters and rooflines.
- **Tile All-in-One clips** hang lights horizontally and use "gator teeth" and a pointed end for sliding and securing under roof tiles. Tile clips can hold C6, C7, C9 and mini lights.



Regular All-in-One Clip

Shingle Tabs:

Shingle tabs work with C7 and C9 bulbs that can be removed from the light strings, and will not work with prelampeed LED strings. Two popular styles for shingle tabs are the Original Shingle Tab and the Bi-Axial Shingle Tab. Both clips are designed to slide underneath the shingle or gutter and can be removed when the season is over.

- **The Original Shingle Tab** is our second most popular Christmas light clip, and can be positioned under the shingles or under the gutter. The Original Shingle Tab positions the bulb horizontally, and is assembled by placing the tab between the bulb and socket. It can also be mounted on flat surfaces with the use of a parapet clip. When installed on a flat roof using a parapet clip, Original Shingle Tabs face vertically. The parapet clip is permanent, but the shingle tab can be removed from the clip when the season is over.
- **The Bi-Axial Shingle Tab** can be secured under the shingles or under the gutter, allowing bulbs to face vertically or horizontally.

Our third best selling Christmas light clip is the **Combo C Clip**, which is for flat surface installation of C7 and C9 lights. The Combo C Clip is very popular for commercial light installation, and is a permanent install.

Gutter Hooks:

While most All-in-One clips and shingle tabs can be used for [hanging Christmas lights on gutters](#), a few light clips are designed specifically for gutters.

- **S Style Gutter Hooks** secure over the lip of the gutter, and the opposite end of the clip is used for hanging Christmas light strings. Because this clip holds the wire instead of the bulb, any Christmas light can be used. S Style Gutter Hooks usually work best with gutters that have a lip of 1/4" or less.
- **Gutter Clips** position clips horizontally or vertically, and can be attached to all styles and sizes of gutters. Use gutter clips for C7 and C9 temporary Christmas light installation.



Original Shingle Tab
with C9 Bulb



"S" Style Gutter Hook

Other Christmas Light Clips

- **Icicle Light Clips** are equipped with a hook on each end for hanging lights from shingles or gutters. Just as the name implies, icicle light clips are used for hanging icicle lights
- **Siding Hooks** are used to hang Christmas lights on siding. The hook is simply wedged under the rim of the siding and secures in place. Siding hooks are easily removed at the end of the season.
- **Brick Clips** grab onto brick, allowing lights and decor to be secured without damaging mortar.
- **Mini Light Adhesive Clips** are used for hanging mini lights around windows.

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Quick Search



Christmas Lights

- Battery Powered Lights
- Bubble Lights
- C7, C9 Lights
- Icicle Lights
- LED Lights
- Light Clips
- Mini Lights
- Net Lights
- Rope Light
- Candles
- Yard Decorations

Quick Picks

- Christmas Lights Sale
- Christmas Trees Sale
- Christmas Lights
- Christmas Trees
- What's Hot



[Home](#) > [Accessories](#) > [Christmas Light Clips & Hangers](#)

We carry a large selection of Clips, Hangers, Hooks, Shingle Tabs, Stakes and more for your installation needs. We carry clips to use on all types of bulbs from c9 to mini, and surfaces from wood to brick.

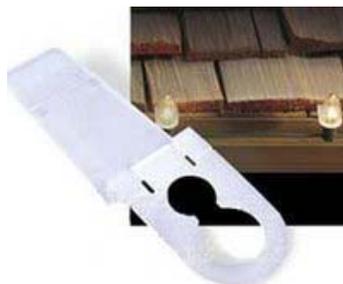
Multipurpose/All-in-one Clips



Multipurpose/All-in-one Clips

- Mount lights where you never thought you could before. Gutters, shingles, clay roof tops, and brick wall obstacles can all be overcome with the proper light clip. Browse our clips to find how easy hanging lights to your home's exterior can be.

C7 and C9 Clips



C7 and C9 Clips

- Gone are the days of struggling to keep your Christmas lights all facing the same direction and trying to prevent inevitable drooping. Using clips to secure your lights in place allow you to have a clean look to your home, as well as the peace of mind that your rooftops will remain undamaged.

Icicle and Mini Light Clips



Icicle and Mini Light Clips

- Stop using archaic light hanging methods such as nails on your rooftops and gutters. Using the proper clips prevent scarring to your home or building's exterior, and keep lights secure. This year display your icicle lights, and not their hangers.

C7 and C9 Stakes



C7 and C9 Stakes

- Light stakes will help to hold your C7 and C9 lights securely in place, as passerbys and visitors admire your sense of decor. Have you ever wondered how your neighbor lights up the edge of their walkway and driveway, extending the beauty of Christmas lights throughout the yard? Using stakes will keep wires off the ground and bulbs secure and straight.

Hooks and Hangers



Hooks and Hangers

- Here you will find a nice selection of hooks and hangers to hang wreaths, lights, or whatever you have in mind that can be hung on a hook.

Christmas Tree & Lights Storage



Christmas Tree & Lights Storage

- Storage bags for wreaths, garland, and most trees, as well as reels for storing your lights strings. Nothing is as frustrating as the yearly battle with improperly stored Christmas decorations - proper storage accessories help prevent such issues.

Greenery Installation Accessories



Greenery Installation Accessories - Hang lights and wreaths from trees, brick, and other difficult surfaces using our specialty collection of greenery installation accessories.

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[Christmas Lights](#)



[Christmas Trees](#)



[Christmas Decorations](#)



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[Home](#) > [Accessories](#) > [Christmas Light Clips & Hangers](#) > [Multipurpose/All-in-one Clips](#) > [How to Hang Christmas Lights from Gutters](#)

Quick Search



Christmas Lights

- Battery Powered Lights
- Bubble Lights
- C7, C9 Lights
- Icicle Lights
- LED Lights
- Light Clips
- Mini Lights
- Net Lights
- Rope Light
- Candles
- Yard Decorations

Quick Picks

- [Christmas Lights Sale](#)
- [Christmas Trees Sale](#)
- [Christmas Lights](#)
- [Christmas Trees](#)
- [What's Hot](#)

Resources

- [Christmas Light Clips Chart](#)
- [Christmas Light Clips Guide](#)
- [Hanging Christmas Lights](#)
- [How to Hang Christmas Lights from Gutters](#)



How to Hang Christmas Lights on Gutters

[Hanging Christmas Lights](#) | [Christmas Light Clip Guide](#) | [Christmas Light Clips Chart](#)



Christmas Lights Installed on Gutters with Omni All-in-One Clips

Gutters make an easy surface for hanging Christmas lights, and almost every light clip can secure easily on gutters.

Christmas Light Clips for Gutters:

- S Style Gutter Hook
- Gutter Clip
- All-in-One Clip - all styles
- Original Shingle Tab
- Bi-Axial Shingle Tab

Vertical or horizontal? When installing Christmas lights on gutters, clips will face the following direction:

- Gutter Clip - vertical or horizontal. For gutter lips thicker than 1/2", clips may only secure horizontally
- Regular All-in-One - horizontal
- All-in-One plus - horizontal
- Omni All-in-One - horizontal
- LED All-in-One - horizontal
- Bi-Axial Shingle Tab - horizontal
- Original Shingle Tab - vertical
- C Style All-in-One - vertical

The most popular Christmas lights to hang from gutters include C7, C9 and icicle lights. It is important when hanging Christmas lights to choose a bulb size that is easy to see from the ground and the road. Icicle lights can be used with Christmas light clips like the All-in-One Plus and Omni All-in-One, which include hooks for hanging icicle lights.

Each bulb or icicle drop requires its own Christmas light clip, so be sure to purchase as many clips as lights. Assemble bulbs to the clips while on the ground, and then use a ladder that is tall enough to extend to the highest level to be decorated. When hanging Christmas lights from the gutter, be careful to never reach out to secure clips, but continue to move the ladder along the length of the gutters until all clips and lights are in place. Most Christmas light tabs for gutters can also be used for shingles, so if you are hanging Christmas lights from gutters and shingles, you may be able to use the same light clips for both applications. Learn more about hanging Christmas lights from shingles and find your perfect light clip!

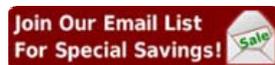
Additional resources for hanging Christmas lights include:

- [Hanging Christmas Lights: D.I.Y. Resource](#)
- [Light Clips Guide](#)
- [Christmas Light Clip Chart](#)

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