

FOR AUSTIN HOMEOWNERS

BUYER'S GUIDE TO PERMANENT HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Everything You Need to Know Before You Buy

WHAT YOU'LL GET:

Spot red flags in quotes

Compare light types and systems

Learn why permanent light prices vary

Understand the truth about warranties

Know what to look for in installers

Questions to ask before you buy

Make an informed decision and avoid costly mistakes

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WHY PERMANENT LIGHT PRICES VARY

Permanent holiday light quotes can range from \$1,500 to \$10,000+. Here's why:

HOME SIZE & LINEAR FOOTAGE

Pricing is typically \$15-30 per linear foot. A 200-foot roofline = \$3,000-6,000. Measure your roofline to estimate costs.

LIGHT QUALITY & BRAND

Commercial-grade LEDs (10-15 year lifespan) cost 3x more than consumer-grade (3-5 years). Ask what brand they use.

INSTALLATION COMPLEXITY

Multi-story homes, steep roofs, and intricate designs require more labor and safety equipment, increasing costs.

CONTROLLER & APP FEATURES

Basic timers vs. full app control with millions of colors. More features = higher upfront cost but better value.

WARRANTY & SERVICE

Lifetime warranties cost more upfront but save thousands in repairs. Ask what's covered and for how long.

INSTALLER EXPERIENCE

Licensed, insured pros with 5+ years experience charge more than new companies, but deliver better results.

COMPARE LIGHT TYPES & SYSTEMS

Not all permanent lights are created equal. Here's what you need to know:

COMMERCIAL-GRADE LED SYSTEMS

Pros: 10-15 year lifespan, brightest output, best warranties, weather-resistant. Cons: Highest upfront cost (\$20-30/ft). Best for: Long-term value.

CONSUMER-GRADE LED (GOVEE-STYLE)

Pros: Lower cost (\$10-15/ft), good app control, DIY-friendly. Cons: 3-5 year lifespan, less bright, limited warranty. Best for: Budget-conscious buyers.

RGB VS. RGBW LIGHTS

RGB = Red, Green, Blue. RGBW adds White for better color mixing and true white light. RGBW costs 20% more but looks significantly better.

BULB SPACING

8-inch spacing = professional look, optimal coverage. 12-inch = standard, good balance. 18-inch = budget option, less coverage.

TRACK VS. CHANNEL SYSTEMS

Track: Lights clip into aluminum track, easy to service. Channel: Lights embedded in channel, sleeker look. Both work well - ask what they use.

CONTROLLER QUALITY

Cheap controllers fail in 2-3 years. Commercial controllers last 10+ years. Ask about controller warranty separately from lights.

RED FLAGS TO WATCH FOR IN QUOTES

If you see these in a quote, proceed with caution:

■ NO BRAND NAMES LISTED

If they won't tell you what brand of lights they use, they're probably using cheap components.

■ 'LIFETIME WARRANTY' WITH NO DETAILS

What's covered? Labor? Parts? Controller? Get it in writing or it means nothing.

■ PRICE TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

If it's 50% cheaper than other quotes, they're cutting corners somewhere. You'll pay later.

■ NO PROOF OF INSURANCE

Unlicensed, uninsured installers put YOU liable if someone gets hurt on your property.

■ PRESSURE TO SIGN TODAY

Legitimate companies don't need high-pressure tactics. Take your time to decide.

■ NO WRITTEN CONTRACT

Everything should be in writing: scope, timeline, warranty, payment terms. No exceptions.

■ CASH-ONLY OR FULL PAYMENT UPFRONT

Professional companies accept cards and require deposits (30-50%), not full payment before work starts.

■ NO LOCAL REFERENCES

If they can't show you work in your area or provide local references, that's a red flag.

THE TRUTH ABOUT WARRANTIES

Not all warranties are created equal. Here's what to look for:

PARTS VS. LABOR WARRANTY

PARTS: Manufacturer warranty on lights (typically 3-10 years). LABOR: Installer's warranty on workmanship (1-5 years). You need BOTH.

WHAT'S ACTUALLY COVERED?

Ask specifically: Are LEDs covered? Controller? Wiring? Track? Installation labor? Get a written list of what's included and excluded.

WHO HONORS THE WARRANTY?

If the company goes out of business, your warranty is worthless. Check how long they've been in business (5+ years is ideal).

PRORATED VS. FULL REPLACEMENT

Prorated = You pay a percentage based on age. Full replacement = They cover 100%. Full replacement is far better.

SERVICE RESPONSE TIME

A warranty is only good if they actually show up. Ask: What's your response time for warranty claims? 48 hours or less is standard.

TRANSFERABLE WARRANTY

If you sell your home, can the warranty transfer to the new owner? This adds value to your home.

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE YOU BUY

Any reputable installer should be able to answer these confidently:

1. What brand of lights do you use, and what's their lifespan?
2. Are you licensed and insured? Can I see proof?
3. What exactly is covered under your warranty, and for how long?
4. Can I see examples of your work in my neighborhood?
5. What's the total cost per linear foot, including all components?
6. How long have you been installing permanent lights?
7. What happens if a section fails after installation?
8. Do you offer financing? What are the terms?
9. What's your typical response time for service calls?
10. Can you provide 3 local references I can contact?

PRO TIP:

Get at least 3 quotes and compare them side-by-side using this guide. The cheapest quote is rarely the best value.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN AN INSTALLER

Use this checklist to evaluate installers:

■ LICENSED & INSURED

General liability insurance (minimum \$1M) and workers' comp. Ask for certificate of insurance.

■ 5+ YEARS IN BUSINESS

Experience matters. New companies may not be around to honor warranties in 5-10 years.

■ LOCAL REPUTATION

Check Google reviews, BBB rating, and local references. 4.5+ stars with 50+ reviews is ideal.

■ DETAILED WRITTEN QUOTE

Should include: linear footage, light brand/model, controller type, warranty terms, payment schedule.

■ PORTFOLIO OF LOCAL WORK

Should be able to show you completed projects in your area, ideally in your neighborhood.

■ CLEAR WARRANTY DOCUMENTATION

Written warranty document that specifies what's covered, for how long, and who to contact.

■ PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

Responds within 24 hours, shows up on time, answers questions thoroughly, provides written contracts.

■ FINANCING OPTIONS

Established companies offer financing. Starting at \$95/month makes premium systems affordable.

READY TO GET QUOTES?

You now have everything you need to make an informed decision.
Use this guide to evaluate quotes and choose the right installer for your home.

IF YOU'RE READY TO GET STARTED IN AUSTIN...

Warriors For Light created this guide to help educate Austin homeowners about permanent holiday lighting - whether you choose us or another installer.

We check all the boxes on this list:

- Licensed & insured with \$2M liability coverage
- 5+ years serving Austin homeowners
- Commercial-grade LED systems with lifetime warranty
- 100+ five-star Google reviews from local customers
- Free design consultation with no obligation
- Financing starting at \$95/month

GET YOUR FREE DESIGN CONSULTATION

VISIT: [WARRIORSFORLIGHT.ONLINE](https://www.warriorsforlight.com)

Or use this guide to evaluate any installer in Austin.
The most important thing is that you make an informed decision.

Thank you for taking the time to educate yourself.
We hope this guide helps you make the best decision for your home and family.