



# It's a Wrap

How to salvage sub-par contractor fixtures and improve beam spreads of recessed lights.



If your customer has generic or dated-looking outdoor or indoor lights, you can dress them up by wrapping them with recycled steel covers, available through Living Green Design Solutions. Note how they screw into the wall around the existing fixture.

that fit over existing wall-mounted fixtures. They also fabricate beautiful privacy panels that fit over windows with less-than-desirable views. Check out the line at [www.livinggreendesignsolutions.com](http://www.livinggreendesignsolutions.com). Now you can be earth-friendly — and pretty.

**Q: Explain the difference between metal halide and high-pressure sodium.**

**A:** The main difference between metal halide and high-pressure sodium is the color of the light. High-pressure sodium (HPS) is more orange in color (and low-pressure sodium, or LPS, is *really* orange). Certain municipalities like sodium lighting because it doesn't compete with the night sky as much as other sources do. Metal halide is available in color temperatures that are closer to halogen than HPS and LPS sources. Lamp manufacturers have been working hard to develop lower-wattage high-intensity discharge (HID) sources that have both retail and residential applications. They are also tweaking the HPS lamps to look more like incandescent

**Q: I have a client that has retrofitted some type of conversion kit into their family room recessed fixtures. These fixtures now use a GU10-style 50W lamp with a 25-degree spread. He doesn't like the hot spots on the floor. Is there some other lamp that can be used in its place?**

**A:** Here is another case where someone is trying to upgrade an existing fixture, which I am all for as a first approach. I am surmising that these GU10 lamps are 120V MR16s. They do come in different wattages and beam spreads. There is a 50W wide flood, which would spread out the light. The other option is to clip a spread lens onto the existing lamps so that they can be used instead of thrown away. Take a look at WAC Lighting's LENS-16-CLIP as a way of affixing the lens to the lamp. Remember: A clip-on is less painful than a piercing.

**Q: We have just bought a new house and the exterior lights mounted on the façade are dinky "contractor's specials." We don't want to just ditch them. Do you have any suggestions?**

**A:** Thank you for not just throwing them in a landfill. I understand that often the lighting fixtures that are being installed in homes are the bare minimum in order to keep the construction costs down. They are serviceable, but may just not be the right scale or finish. Before the global market adjustment (aka recession), my first inclination would have been to replace the fixtures. Now, I look at how a fixture can be upgraded. There is one company I have found called Living Green Design Solutions that makes artistically cut, recycled steel covers

## Task at Hand

More and more companies are coming out with well-designed LED under-cabinet task lights. One to consider is the Priori Plus LED. It's dimmable, linkable and meets California's Title 24 requirements.  
[www.americanlighting.com](http://www.americanlighting.com)



## ASK RANDALL

His mother has a tattoo that says "son."

Submit questions online at:  
[www.ResidentialLighting.com](http://www.ResidentialLighting.com)

Or send questions to:  
*Residential Lighting* magazine  
attn: Last Word in Lighting  
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**Randall Whitehead, IALD,** is a professional lighting designer and author. His eight books include *"Residential Lighting, A Practical Guide"* and his latest collection of photography titled *"Lost*

*Dolls, The Hidden Lives of Toys."* Whitehead has worked on projects worldwide, appeared on the Discovery Channel, HGTV and CNN, and he is a regular guest on Martha Stewart Living Radio. Visit his website for more information on books, upcoming seminars and the latest lighting trends at [www.randallwhitehead.com](http://www.randallwhitehead.com).