

How to save electricity in the staircase?

Electricity in the staircase is needed, but usually for a relatively short period of time - mostly when walking on stairs, shutting or opening the apartment doors, etc. Often, in multi apartment buildings electrical switches are located in inconvenient places and it happens to forget to switch them off when leaving the building or when entering the apartment. As a result electricity is spent in vain. What to do for not overpaying for the light in staircase? Here are three solutions!

Solution No.1 – more energy efficient light bulbs

Incandescent bulbs as being relatively inexpensive are still most commonly used in staircases. However, they consume much more energy than modern bulbs (halogen, fluorescent and LED bulbs), so it turns out that exploitation of incandescent bulbs are more expensive in operation. Besides, there will be a need to look for an alternative because production of incandescent light bulbs due to their low energy efficiency is stopped in the European Union and thus they are gradually disappearing from store shelves.

Solution No.2 - A switch with time relay

The switch which is equipped with a time relay, after a certain time automatically switches off all the light bulbs in the staircase, so there is no need to worry about long and excessive consumption of electricity. Such switch has to be installed not only besides the main entrance door, but also at each floor. The main disadvantage of this solution – applying the simplest version the switch will turn on all light bulbs simultaneously in all floors, which is not always necessary.

Solution No.3 – A motion sensor

Responding to the motion, a motion sensor turns on the bulb and turns it off in a while after the movement has stopped. It is comfortable to use motion sensors because there is no need to look for a switch or to turn the switch on and off. The bulb lights only when someone opens the door and moves in a staircase. Sensitivity and shutter time of motion sensors can be adjusted. It is important that the sensor covers an area large enough and responds not only to the people movement, but also to the opening of apartment or elevator doors.



If during the day time, it is bright enough in the staircase, a motion sensor with the so called "twilight switch" is required, letting the unit to run only when the light is falling.

A motion sensor must be installed at the entrance and on each floor. Installation, of course, requires additional costs, but the benefit is the comfort in use and electricity saving. If using motion sensors, the traditional incandescent light bulbs can be replaced with halogen or LED bulbs as they light up instantly and are not sensitive to frequent switches on and off. The solution has a drawback - sensor operation may seem troublesome when light in staircase is needed for a longer time period, for example, during repair works.