

Contemporary Ice Chandelier FAQs

Please find below typical questions we like to ask prior to producing a scale drawing for a bespoke spike chandelier.

Does the site have provision for hanging a chandelier?

Typically the top board may weigh 5 Kilos and each spike weights about 1 Kilo including a 2m length of cable. Obviously we like as much information about the specific intended end position of the chandelier prior to commission; it is imperative that the ceiling has been strengthened to take the localised weight loading.

What size of top board is required?

We recommend that the top board be undersized rather than oversized as most chandelier arrangements are grouped towards the centre of the board which allows us more flexibility when composing the overall form; typically this is between 500 and 800 mm square.

We normally specify a twin framed top board where the outer frame is manufactured from 13 or 18 mm MDF which is professionally PU sprayed to any finish and colour – although normally the client requests white.

We also regularly specify brushed or polished stainless steel ceiling plates; normally when the client requires a circular design.

The top board usually houses the drivers for the LEDs; if the board is flush against the ceiling then we might recommend that the drivers are located either in a roof space above or we can also supply the board with a demountable side plate with magnetic catches for easy access.

We always prefer to mount the drivers externally to the main assembly if this is possible; typically they might sit in the roof space if there is access or they can sit in an accessible location a few metres from the Chandelier.

The top board is usually fixed to the ceiling via a second frame that sits within the structure; typically a 40 or 50 mm wooden frame in the case of MDF frames or a metal structure if stainless steel is specified. This is fixed to the ceiling and the top board is offered up and secured via pins through the four sides. This is all done prior to fixing the glass spikes onto the cable.

What colour LEDs are required in the spikes?

We normally use Luxeon or Lumiled 1 watts with an additional heat sink that we apply to the rear of each LED for extra longevity. We fully expect that each LED has a life expectancy of a minimum of 50,000 hours, even after this they degrade very slowly. This equates, at 12 hours a day, to over 11 years life expectancy.

They run at 350 ma on a 12v supply (via a transformer) – a 55 spike chandelier therefore runs at just 55 watts, a touch more than a single halogen bulb.

Choices of single colour LED are :- warm white, cold white, red, yellow, green and blue OR in RGB- we can even offer the package with 9 programmable sound sensitive options. Where just single colour LEDs are required most clients opt for white; blue; blue and red or white and blue. If there are enough spikes to support the option then red at the top - through to amber - through to green and down to blue can look stunning; the important aspect is that the proximity of the spikes dictates that they blend and affect each other.

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Do you require side-glow LEDs around the top of the board?

If so the design of the top board is altered to accommodate a 25 mm lip onto which we can locate the LED strips. These will be powered separately off a different circuit - this can be either a 12v or 24 v system.

The LED strips can be provided in standard colours; warm white, cold white, red, yellow, green and blue OR in RGB (A single LED diode that has three separate Red, Green and Blue channels that are controlled off a chip). When mentioning RGB it is important to note that this doesn't just mean an endless scroll through the colour wheel although this is certainly achievable via a small controller.

RGB is often specified if the client wants an infinite choice of colour i.e. the devices can be stopped on any colour such as dark blue or purple.

Do you require additional downlighters?

In certain cases, where the spikes are themselves coloured you may wish for some additional lighting in the ceiling mount. These can be either a cluster of 1 watt LED down-lighters or 3 watt versions or even up to 9 watts. Alternatively maybe you wish for a colour changing element within the structure; these too can be added to the ceiling plate to wash down over the main assembly.

What drop is required?

The spikes are around 450 - 500 mm long and we need to know where to start the drop and the lowest point required.

What colour flex is required?

We normally wish to specify black or white two core cable, round in section , around 5 mm outside diameter - white cable reflects the ambient glow from the spikes and looks harmonious, black looks more dramatic. We also can offer a bright steel cable in a figure 8 section which is much smaller.

Design alternatives.

We have created a number of alternative chandelier designs in line with clients' specifications, some of which are so recent they are not yet featured on our website. The nearest relative to the ice spike is the leaf which we have recently used in the Clarins Beauty consultation area in Selfridges in London.

Also very popular is the fibre optic 'Firefly' design which incorporates LED technology with the fibres and acrylic spheres.

Most recently we have been designing the 'Sea Forms ' range, a collection of blown spheres and solid shapes that hang from a smaller stainless ferrule which again incorporates the Light source; these forms are then cut and the light not only illuminates the cut but also transmits a shadow pattern.

Another major development is the textured acrylic chandelier which utilizes the new triple bright high brightness Ribbon LED technology to side light the unique textures we CNC into one side of the acrylic.

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Commissioning procedure :-

Once we have a specification from the above questions we generally produce a scale drawing; what we often like to do is to superimpose this onto a site photograph; although not strictly accurate this allows for a scale check and a certain amount of the aesthetic can be explored. Once agreed this drawing is elaborated on especially with reference to the top board which is used as a design drawing for the boards' manufacture.

Once we have received a deposit we will compose the chandelier in our studio and photograph it and forward to the client if required. This allows us to not only ensure that all LEDs are fully functional (we like to soak test them for a minimum of four days) but allows us to alter any potential problems. We will then label each component prior to shipping or pack ready for delivery and installation.

When re-assembling the chandelier, the top board is positioned over the inner frame with all Cable and LEDs attached but no glass. We advise that the power is tested and kept on while assembling the chandelier. Each spike is then attached via two simple grub screws.

For quoting purposes we typically quote out at £ 122 + vat per spike inclusive of LEDs, stainless steel ferrule, aluminium end cap, glued crystal fitting, and cable. This price can vary if you have some spikes custom made in a particular colourway.

All other items are additional such as the drivers/transformers - the top boards usually come out at between £ 250 and £ 850 depending on size, finish and material; stainless steel is usually used if a round fixing is required and this tends to be a touch more expensive, especially if it is required in a mirrored finish. We usually specify a stainless steel top should the client have a more major piece, such as a 25 spike or over.

Terms;

100% pro-forma on first order with new client; with existing clients we anticipate a 50 – 60% deposit to secure and initiate the order – this is mainly to cover the manufacture of the spikes which we undertake ourselves.

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