



Commercial Rebates

LINEAR FLUORESCENT LAMPS FACT SHEET

Linear fluorescent lighting has been the standard technology used to provide general lighting in commercial, institutional, and industrial applications for decades. *Linear* refers to the family of fluorescent lamps that generally are manufactured in sizes ranging from two to eight feet in length.

Lamps are typically identified by a code containing a letter and a number, such as T-12. The “T” stands for tubular shape, and the number indicates the lamp’s diameter in eighths of an inch. T-12 lamps have been the industry favorite and are still used in the majority of commercial buildings. In recent years, however, the T-12 lamp has been replaced in retrofit and new commercial construction with higher efficiency T-10, T-8, and T-5 lamps. These new categories of lamps are more energy efficient, produce superior color rendering properties and are also available in color temperatures ranging from cool to warm light. Additionally, when combined with electronic ballasts, these lamps eliminate noise and flicker. They also will significantly reduce your air conditioning cooling load.

When selecting new fluorescent lamps to install in your building, ask your supplier to make sure that the new lamps are compatible with the existing ballasts (although it may be cost effective to replace the ballast as well). Although it is possible to replace T-12s with other T-12s, many lighting experts feel that installing the higher efficiency, slim T-8 lamps is a better solution when replacing standard T-12s. T-8s must be matched with appropriate ballasts (*T-12 ballasts are not compatible with other types of fluorescent lamps other than older T-10 fluorescent lamps*), so if you are using a fixture which previously used T-12 lamps, the ballast must also be replaced to use the higher efficiency T-8 lamps.

No cost ways to save on your lighting costs

- *Remove unneeded lamps*
- *De-lamp fixture and disconnect ballasts*
- *Turn off lights in unoccupied areas*
- *Turn off lights near windows*
- *Use partial lighting before and after “public” hours*
- *Re-schedule or reduce evening activities*
- *Review your outside lighting needs*
- *Use only necessary safety and security lighting and make sure automatic controls are working properly*

Low-cost ways to save money on your lighting costs

- *Install lower wattage or higher efficiency lamps*
- *Implement group relamping program*
- *Install more efficient ballasts when replacing burned out ones, such as energy efficient core-coil type unit*
- *Retrofit existing fixtures*
- *Install new fixtures*

The Austin Energy guidelines and rebate levels are subject to change at any time, without notice.

Austin Energy – Power Saver™ Program – Commercial Rebate

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