



Ballast Compatible LED Tube is a Penny-Wise but Dollar-Foolish Trap

The ballast compatible LED T8 has received some traction lately for it offers a direct, rewiring-free replacement to the fluorescent T8 lamp. Many buyers have been attracted to the tube and its promise of zero retrofitting labor. However, few are aware of the fact that the ballast compatible LED tube has been out for a while now but has failed to win market favor due to a number of deficiencies:

- It doesn't work with most ballast types. If the ballast turns out to be incompatible with this supposed ballast compatible LED T8, the user ends up having to buy and replace both the ballast and LED tube. In the case of an older facility that has multiple types of ballast, it will be hit-and-miss when it comes to figuring out which ballast is compatible.
- It doesn't work without ballasts. As such, the user is forced to buy and replace the ballast for as long as they continue to use the ballast compatible LED tube.
- The life of the ballast is far shorter than that of the LED tube. This means the user needs to make a ballast replacement at least once for each fixture, with the cost of replacing all dead ballast one-by-one being much higher than retrofitting all fixtures in a facility at the same time.
- The ballast and the LED tube never die at the same time. Thus, twice the amount of overall maintenance work is required to keep both the LED tube and the ballast working.
- When the ballast dies, the entire fixture goes out. In contrast, when an LED tube goes out, the other tubes in the fixture are not affected and therefore still provide reduced lighting for operation and maintenance. Omni-Ray Lighting provides a simple exchange warranty.
- The ballast draws additional power in addition to the bulb from 4-9 Watts or more. Not a good energy-efficient choice, and this is why most rebate programs offer an extra dollar for ballast bypass. In summary, the cost of implementing and maintaining the operation of ballast compatible LED tubes is more than twice the cost of using self-sufficient LED tubes. "The ballast compatible LED tube is a penny-wise but dollar-foolish option," commented Al Kartavenko, President of CD Lighting. "You won't believe how many people get caught in this trap." Similarly, the facilities planning manager of a Fortune 500 Company remarked, "We know this option is not going to work because we view all lighting retrofit projects over a twelve-year time frame." As a more sensible alternative, Omni-Ray Lighting is proud to offer the dual-ended, double insulated T8 LED, the safest self-sufficient LED tube on the market. It saves 70% on installation time and labor costs compared to the single-ended LED tube. The lamp is ETL Classified, UL 1598C classified, and are on the DLC (Design Lights Consortium) qualified product list for rebates. They come with a 12-year 60,000 hour warranty, and are designed for more than a 100,000 hour lifetime. They are available in 2, 3, 4, and 5 feet and at color temperatures of 3000K, 4100K, 5000K, and 6000K. 1,2,3 or 4 lamp grounded external driver tubes preferred by electricians are also available and offer a 15 year warranty. Both types are 145lm/W High Efficacy products offered in 13, 18, and 22 Watts.