



Troubleshooting Fluorescent Fixtures

1. **Check for poor contact.** Rarely do fluorescent tubes burn out abruptly. If a tube suddenly stops lighting, try wiggling and rotating its ends to make sure it's properly seated.
2. **Replace a worn-out tube.** A working tube usually has a grayish tinge near its ends. If the ends turn dark gray or black, it is failing and needs to be replaced. Purchase a tube that is the same length and wattage as the old one. If the tube is uniformly dim, it may simply need washing. To wash a tube, remove it from the fixture, wipe it with a damp cloth, and then place the tube back in the fixture.
3. **Replace the starter.** Older, delayed-start fluorescent lights flicker momentarily as they light up. If the flickering continues for more than a few seconds, make sure the starter is seated properly. Push it in and turn clockwise. When the ends of a tube light up but its center does not, the starter is defective. Press in and turn counterclockwise to remove it.
4. **Replace the ballast.** If the fixture hums or oozes a tar like goop, the ballast needs replacing. (You may be better off replacing the entire unit. Compare prices.)
NOTE: Shut off the power. To remove the ballast, release the wires at the sockets by pushing a screwdriver into the release openings. Unscrew the ballast and disconnect wires to power source. Reassemble with the new ballast.
5. **Inspect the box.** If none of these steps locates the problem, you may not have power going into the fixture. Remove the fixture, and look for loose connections and broken or bare wires in the outlet box.

Caution:

Never get rid of burned out tubes by breaking them. They contain mercury. Dispose of them whole, or request disposal guidelines. Spent lamps, excluding those from households, containing any amount of mercury have been banned from solid waste incineration in the state of Florida since July 1, 1994, in any quantity.



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