

Improved Ballast Performance

Provide a reliable and maintenance-free sign by carefully selecting the proper ballast from the data in this catalog and by following these suggestions for optimum ballast performance.

Two of the major enemies of long ballast life are heat and moisture; minimizing the negative effect of these elements will help ensure dependable ballast service.

Heat rises - therefore the bottom of the sign is the best location for the ballast. Mount the ballast against a flat metal surface. Do not double-nut or mount the unit on spacers, since heat dissipation by conduction is more effective than by radiation.

Locate the ballast away from areas of possible water accumulation. When a ballast is mounted vertically, the lead wires exiting from the top of the ballast case should be looped to divert water that may run down the leads. Provide for adequate drainage in the sign.

Do not leave faulty lamps in the sign.

The white lead of the ballast must be connected to the ground wire of the power supply.

Troubleshooting a High-Output Sign

The ballast is usually the first component checked in case of trouble. However, many times the problem lies elsewhere.

The following sequence is a guide to problem areas that should be checked when investigating the failure of a sign:

- Ballast and sign are improperly grounded
- Lamp failure
- Poor lamp-to-socket contact
- Defective sockets
- Incorrect wiring
- Low voltage supply
- Dirty lamp pins
- Moisture collection
- Improper ballast
- Defective ballast

If you are convinced that you do have a defective ballast, refer to 'Breaking the Code' (below) for help in deciphering the effective warranty date of the unit.

Breaking the Code

How do you determine if your ballast is within the manufacturer's warranty period?

The normal warranty period is 24 months from the date of manufacture which is indicated somewhere on the ballast. Where is it located and how can it be deciphered? Each ballast manufacturer uses a different system.

Advance

The date code is imprinted on the base of the unit; the first two numbers indicate the month, the following two numbers indicate the year.

Example: '0706' = July, 2006

Universal Lighting Technologies

The date code is imprinted on the base of the unit and on the white lead wire. The letter indicates the month, starting with 'A' for January and continuing through 'L' for December; the following two numbers indicate the year.

Example: 'G06' = July, 2006

France

The date code is imprinted on the black lead wire several inches from the case and on the base of the ballast itself; the first two numbers indicate the month, the following two numbers indicate the year.

Example: '0706' = July, 2006

Allanson

The date code is stamped on the label on the top of the ballast; the first two numbers indicate the month, the following two numbers indicate the year.

Example: '0706' = July, 2006

Lighting Components

The date code is located on the second line of a white sticker on the blue wire. The first two numbers indicate the year, the second two numbers indicate the week of the year.

Example: '0629' = the 29th week of 2006

Benefits of Electronic Ballasts

Electronic ballasts offer many advantages over traditional magnetic ballasts. Listed below are a few of the most important selling points for electronic ballasts — call us if you'd like more information.

- Higher energy efficiency
- Lower operating costs
- Lighter weight
- Extended lamp life
- Reduced installation costs
- Lower operating temperature