



Exit Signs

Save money by retrofitting incandescent exit signs

Although often overlooked, exit lights contribute to a commercial building's energy consumption. Most standard exit sign fixtures have (2) 20 watt incandescent lamps behind a plastic lens cover. Replacing these incandescent lamps with a fluorescent retrofit kit could cut their operating costs in half. A retrofit kit usually has one 9 watt fluorescent lamp and a ballast that will replace the incandescent lamps.

Below is a cost comparison of the operation of 2 incandescent lamps versus 1 fluorescent exit sign lamp.

Lamp Type	Calculation	Annual Cost
Incandescent	2 lamps 20 watts/lamp kW/1000*8760 hours/year* \$.25/kWh	\$87.60
Fluorescent	1 lamp* 9 watts/lamp* 1.15 ballast factor*kW/1000 watts* 8760 hours/year* \$.25/kWh	\$22.60

In the above example the fluorescent retrofit kit saved nearly \$65 per year per fixture. Furthermore, the fluorescent lamps last 5 to 10 times longer than the incandescent lamps. So the savings are even greater when replacement lamp costs are included in the calculation.

The retrofit kits are available in a wide variety of sizes and wattages. Local fire codes may require that even the fluorescent retrofit kit have two lamps. If this is the case, kits are available that have the second lamp wired in as a spare that does not come on until the first lamp burns out. The kits are easily installed in the existing fixture with a screwdriver. The cost of the kit is usually between \$25 to \$30.

