



## T12 Lighting Upgrade Tip Sheet

Replace T12 fluorescent lights with highly efficient T8 or T5 lights and save up to 40% on lighting electricity costs.



Here are answers to common questions to help you take advantage of this upgrade opportunity:

### **Q. Why the rush to replace T-12 lights?**

A. The Department of Energy is requiring the phase-out of most T12 lighting systems in 2012, meaning they will likely be much harder to purchase in coming years. Many utilities will also soon stop offering rebates for T12 lights due to the phase out.

### **Q. What are T12, T8 and T5 fluorescent lights?**

A. T12 fluorescent lights (long, 1 ½” diameter light tubes) were originally designed to be used as a more energy-efficient fluorescent light source during the energy crisis in the 1970s. Newer T8 (1” diameter) and T5 lighting systems now provide bulbs or lamps with a longer life, better color and higher lighting output.

### **Q. How much energy can be saved by replacing T12s?**

A. Replacing four T12 lamps and two standard magnetic ballasts with four T8 lamps and one electronic ballast can yield energy savings of as much as 40 percent with little or no reduction in maintained light output.

### **Q. What is the typical payback term on a T8 or T5 lighting upgrade?**

A. “With available rebates and tax incentives, plus the monthly energy cost savings that occur when retrofitting to energy-efficient T8s or T5s, the upgrade virtually pays for itself within a year,” said Sean Neman, director of operations at ReGreen Inc., an energy conservation company. “

***Need help or have questions? Call Energy Smart at (651) 292-4653.***