



Delivery of a high quality, sustainable, repairs service with positive community benefits

Florescent lights and starting motors

Fluorescent tube

This is the long, thin type of light that you usually find fitted to your kitchen ceiling. If the light starts to flicker, or if only one end of the tube works, it's likely the starter will need to be replaced. If the light doesn't turn on at all then you'll need to replace the tube itself.

Removing the tube

- Clear the floor area and make sure all children and pets are out of the room.
- Turn off the light switch and allow the tube to cool for several minutes.
- Turn off the main power switch for the circuit, located in your home's central consumer unit (fuse board).
- Place a ladder directly underneath the fluorescent bulb.
- If the light has a cover (diffuser), you'll need to remove this first.
- Some covers are held in place by screws at either end of the fitting so unscrew them with a suitable-sized screwdriver.
- Gently push upward on the cover and tilt it toward you. It should then come away quite easily.
- Hold the edges of the tube gently and twist it toward you to release.
- Some fittings have tubes that need the end support brackets gently pulling apart to release the bulb.
- Be sure you don't put pressure in the middle of the tube so as not to break it.

Fitting the new tube

- Your old bulb should have the size and power rating printed on one end. This will help you to buy the correct replacement.
- Slide the new fluorescent tube into the fitting by lining up the grooves on the end of the bulb and gently slotting it into place.
- Twist the tube to lock it in.
- Replace the cover.
- Turn the main circuit and light switch back on.

If the light still doesn't work, you will need to replace the starter:

- The starter is a small cylinder shape located in one end of the fitting.
- You'll need to turn the power off and remove the cover again to see it.
- Press the starter inward, turn it anti-clockwise and pull it out of the fitting.
- The details of what starter you need to get will be printed on the old one.
- Insert the new starter, push it into place, and turn it clockwise to lock it in.

Disposal and safety precautions

- Fluorescent tubes contain a small amount of mercury, which can be toxic if overexposed to it.
- You'll need to dispose of the old tube at your local recycling centre.
- Alternatively, some DIY stores such as B&Q and Homebase will also dispose of them for you. Check with them first.
- If the tube breaks, quickly make sure that no one else is in the room.

- Turn off any heating or AC in that room and open all of the doors and windows for 10 minutes for ventilation.
- Carefully remove the broken pieces and put them into a sealable bag.
- Clean any hard surface with a damp paper towel or rag. Make sure you dispose of that towel or rag in the sealable bag as well.
- Do not ever vacuum any broken fluorescent tubes.