

FACILITY LIGHTING DECISION GUIDE

The Three R's of Industrial Lighting

How to choose among re-lamping or re-ballasting, retrofitting an existing fixture, and installing a new LED fixture

Every facility eventually faces lighting failures, rising maintenance demands, changing operations, or performance concerns. **The right answer is not always full replacement.** Compare the urgency, fixture condition, desired improvement, disruption, and long-term cost before choosing a path.

The goal is to solve today's problem without overlooking a better long-term option.

1 RE-LAMP OR RE-BALLAST – *Best for immediate repairs and the lowest initial disruption*

What changes:

Failed or aging lamps, ballasts, or drivers are replaced while the existing fixtures remain in service.

Advantages: Fast response, familiar components, and typically the lowest upfront cost.

Consider: It restores current performance but may not address recurring failures, obsolete components, energy use, or poor light quality.

2 RETROFIT OR UPGRADE – *Best for upgrading performance without full replacement*

What changes:

The housing remains while the light source, driver, optics, and/or controls are updated.

Advantages: Can reduce energy and maintenance needs, improve light quality, and limit disruption compared with full replacement.

Consider: Compatibility, fixture condition, thermal management, safety listings, warranties, and installation labor all affect the right solution.

3 REPLACE – *Best for obsolete or damaged fixtures and long-term improvements*

What changes:

The complete fixture is replaced with a modern LED luminaire selected for the application.

Advantages: Supports new optics, light levels, controls, layouts, warranties, and a clearer long-term maintenance plan.

Consider: Usually requires more planning and higher initial investment, plus installation and disposal coordination.

COMPARE BEFORE YOU COMMIT

Choose the Path That Fits the Facility

Use the priorities below as a starting point, then confirm compatibility, application requirements, installation conditions, and total project cost

CUSTOMER PRIORITY OR CONDITION	RE-LAMP / RE-BALLAST	RETROFIT / UPGRADE	NEW LED FIXTURE
Restore operation immediately	STRONG	POSSIBLE	POSSIBLE
Keep initial cost and disruption low	STRONG	STRONG	LIMITED
Reduce long-term energy and maintenance	LIMITED	STRONG	STRONG
Improve light levels, quality, or uniformity	LIMITED	STRONG	STRONG
Change layout, distribution, or mounting	LIMITED	DEPENDS	STRONG
Add controls or meet new requirements	LIMITED	POSSIBLE	STRONG
Address damaged or obsolete fixture housings	LIMITED	DEPENDS	STRONG

Strong = commonly a good fit | Possible = may fit after review | Depends/Limited = usually needs closer evaluation or another path

Information That Leads to a Better Recommendation

A useful review can begin with basic field information. Gather what is available; a complete lighting audit is not always required for the first conversation.

- Current product information:** lamp, ballast, driver, and fixture part numbers or labels
- Application photos:** the fixture, mounting, surrounding space, and existing light conditions
- Electrical and quantity:** voltage, controls, number of fixtures, and any emergency requirements
- Operating conditions:** hours of use, mounting height, temperature, dust, moisture, or washdown exposure
- Goals and constraints:** timing, budget, acceptable downtime, desired light, energy, maintenance, or safety

What to Expect From Your Distributor and Lighting Partner

APPLICATION SUPPORT

Compare all three paths
Confirm compatibility and specifications
Select products suited to the environment
Review layouts or light levels when needed

PROJECT SUPPORT

Provide clear product and budget options
Coordinate availability and lead times
Stage or phase deliveries when appropriate
Support warranties and post-sale questions
Check for applicable utility rebates or incentives

Next Step

ASK FOR OPTIONS

Ask your NetPlus distributor to evaluate the immediate need and compare the Three R's. A side-by-side review can clarify cost, disruption, performance, and long-term value.