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# Ace Lamps

A division of Direct Electrical Services

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## **Commercial Light Fittings buying guide**

Any type of mains voltage lights that are used outdoors must be watertight and durable. An IP rating is given to indicate the level of protection (see the bottom of this page for a full explanation of IP ratings). All of our flood lights have the relevant IP54 ratings.

As we all know moisture is highly conductive so outside lighting must be installed with care to ensure safety. All exterior wiring must be insulated and all metallic surfaces must be earthed. We would recommend that a qualified electrician do any installation and that he fits an RCD to the circuit.

**Sodium Flood Lights** ([click here to view](#)) produce an orange glow and are widely used for amenity lighting, our sodium floodlight fittings have an optional photocell. The photocell allows the fitting to turn automatically on at dusk and off at dawn this is an excellent feature for security lighting.

The lamps that are used in sodium floodlights are known as discharge lamps and do require a certain amount of time at switch on to warm up and for this reason we would recommend against the use of a PIR movement sensor. When buying replacement lamps for these fittings there are a couple of options that need to be selected correctly. The first is the igniter, some sodium fittings have the igniter inside the fitting and others have the igniter inside the light bulb. This is easy to distinguish if you look at the light bulb it should display either an I or an E printed on the glass part of the bulb I indicates that the igniter is internal ie inside the light bulb. E indicates the igniter is external ie. Inside the light fitting. If you take a look at the sodium (SON) lamps section of our website the different lamps are clearly displayed. Another option is elliptical or tubular shaped light bulb our fittings use an elliptical shaped lamp our sodium (SON) lamp section of the website clearly displays these different types.

**Mercury Flood Lights** ([click here to view](#)) produce a much whiter light than the sodium fittings and again are widely used for amenity and garden lighting. The mercury fittings also have the photocell option to allow the light to turn on automatically at dusk and off at dawn an excellent feature for security lighting.

The lamps used in mercury floodlights are known as discharge lamps and will require a small amount of time to warm up when switched on for this reason we would not recommend the use of a PIR movement sensor. Replacement lamps for these fittings are readily available from us [click here](#). Always use the same wattage lamp as you are replacing.



[Click here to view our Sodium & Mercury Light fittings](#)

## IP RATINGS EXPLAINED

EN 60529 outlines an international classification system for the sealing effectiveness of enclosures of electrical equipment against the intrusion into the equipment of foreign bodies (i.e. tools, dust, fingers) and moisture. This classification system utilizes the letters "IP" ("Ingress Protection") followed by two or three digits. (A third digit is sometimes used. An "x" is used for one of the digits if there is only one class of protection; i.e. IPX4 which addresses moisture resistance only.)

### Degrees of protection – First Number

The first digit of the IP code indicates the degree that persons are protected against contact with moving parts (other than smooth rotating shafts, etc.) and the degree that equipment is protected against solid foreign bodies intruding into an enclosure

Number	Description
0	No Protection
1	Protection from a large part of the body such as a hand (but no protection from deliberate access); from solid objects greater than 50mm in diameter.
2	Protection against fingers or other object not greater than 80mm in length and 12mm in diameter.
3	Protection from entry by tools, wires, etc., with a diameter of thickness greater than 1.0mm.
4	Protection from entry by solid objects with a diameter or thickness greater than 1.0mm
5	Protection from the amount of dust that would interfere with the operation of the equipment.
6	Dust tight

## Degrees of protection - Second Number

The second digit indicates the degree of protection of the equipment inside the enclosure against the harmful entry of various forms of moisture (e.g. dripping, spraying, submersion, etc.)

Number	Description
0	No special protection
1	Protection from dripping water.
2	Protection from vertically dripping water.
3	Protection from sprayed water.
4	Protection from splashed water.
5	Protection from water projected from a nozzle
6	Protection against heavy seas, or powerful jets of water
7	Protection against immersion
8	Protection against complete, continuous submersion in water.

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