



A Buying Guide For [Sodium Light Bulbs](#)

It is not often that you will need to replace a high pressure sodium light bulb so when you do some of the different types and names on the market can make the process confusing. So we have put together a simple guide to help you make the right choice. If you have further questions please email us via our contact us page.

Applications for High Pressure Sodium Lamps

High pressure sodium lamps are widely used in a large number of both commercial and domestic lighting applications. They are very popular in flood lighting for car parks and residential roads and also in high bay industrial lighting applications. The high pressure sodium lamps give off a golden yellow/orange glow and are ideal for the above applications due to the very long life that these lamps have.

These lamps do require a short amount of warm up time before they reach full light output general rule of three minutes.

Here are some further technical details that may be useful:

Lamp life	Approx 24000 hours
Colour temperature	2000 Kelvin (standard sodium lamp)
Voltage	240 volt
Burning position	Universal

Which shape?

We recommend that you always replace like for like in your sodium light fitting never try to increase the wattage from the standard.

There are two shapes of high pressure sodium lamp available:

Elliptical

The [elliptical high pressure sodium lamps](#) are a bulbous shape with either an E27 or E40 screw cap.

The elliptical lamps all have a coating on the inside of the glass.

View Elliptical Sodium lamps on our website



Tubular

The [tubular high pressure sodium lamps](#) are a straight tubular shape. With either an E27 or E40 screw cap.

The elliptical sodium lamps all have clear glass

View Tubular Sodium lamps on our website



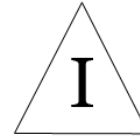
Do I need an ignitor?

One of the most confusing areas when trying to replace a sodium light bulb, the Ignitor performs the simple job of firing up the lamp at start up so it is important that you buy the right lamp.

So lamps have the ignitor inside and some have the ignitor in the light fitting itself.

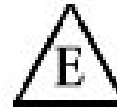
Internal Ignitor

Sodium lamps with the ignitor built in usually have an 'I' inside a triangle marked somewhere on the bulb.



External ignitor

Sodium lamps that do not have an ignitor inside ie. ignitor in the light fitting a marked on the bulb with an 'E' inside a triangle.



Different High Pressure Sodium Names Explained

This is another area that can be very confusing as all the main manufacturers give their range of high pressure sodium lamps different names, **all are interchangeable and made to an industry standard that allows this.**

The table below shows all the names given by the main manufacturers.

Manufacturer	Name
Sylvania	SHP
GE	LUCALOX
Philips	SON
Osram	NAV-E / NAV-T* or VIALOX
Venture	HPS

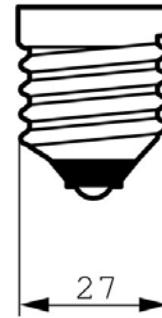
*NAV-E – Elliptical lamps NAV-T – Tubular Lamps

Types of End Cap

There are 2 main types of end cap that the high pressure sodium lamps use. E27 which is also know as an ES screw cap and an E40 which is also know as a GES giant Edison screw cap, so which is which?

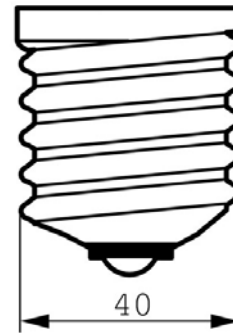
E27 Edison Screw Cap

Probably the more recognizable of the two as it is very popular with standard GLS shaped light bulbs. The screw section of the end cap is 27mm in diameter hence the E27 name.



E40 Giant Edison Screw Cap

This type of end cap is more widely used in lamps for commercial applications. The screw section of the cap is 40mm in diameter giving it the E40 name.



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