

Tech Tip | Replacement Headlight Bulbs

There are a few things to keep in mind when it comes to performance headlight bulbs. Do not overload your vehicle's charging system! In the case of Eurolite HXC series, four 100W bulbs for high and low beam, is more than any vehicle can handle without upgrades to wiring (and possible adding relays) or other components of the charging system. Vehicles with high-powered aftermarket stereos and other high electrical usage accessories will further aggravate the situation, as will DRL (Daytime Running Light) applications. It is possible for aftermarket equipment to overwhelm the vehicle's charging system to the point of premature failure of any bulb installed.



Daytime Running Lights that operate through your vehicles normal headlights ("powered-down" or not) are "on" all the time, and that will significantly reduce the life expectancy of any light bulb due to their current draw, especially performance models. In addition, they often produce violent voltage spiking since they are automatically turned-on when starting the vehicle. This is usually why the low beams fail (the filament is delicate).

DO NOT install extreme high-power bulbs in small composite (plastic) headlight housings, as they might possibly melt the housing and the wiring connector due to their current draw. The current draw of a 55-Watt (Xenon Crystal, Fusion, Super Plasma) performance bulb may draw excessive current in low voltage situations as well Voltage stability is crucial to trouble-free high performance lighting. Some vehicles are more prone to voltage "spiking" than others. Have your vehicle's charging rate measured prior to installing any high-performance bulb to ensure stability of the electrical system and to determine whether it might need upgraded wiring.

"Spiking" is the most common "cause of death" for any performance bulb. Avoid "spiking" by always turning "ON" your lights AFTER starting your car, and turn them "OFF" prior to turning the car's ignition off. When does a bulb usually fail in your home? Most likely, you get that telltale flash just as you flip the switch. That initial voltage spike is very hard on the filament.

INSTALLATION:

Proper installation is CRITICAL to achieve good use of any Xenon bulb. While handling the bulbs during installation, we recommend that clean cotton or latex gloves be worn. If a contaminate does get onto the glass, gently wipe bulb with a little isopropyl alcohol to be absolutely sure that no oil residue from your hands (or car) is left on the bulb itself. Failure to wear clean gloves, or wiping the bulb off, will cause premature (or immediate) bulb failure due to hot spots (blisters) that will build-up from leftover grease residue.