



Specifically, you want to make sure your installer verifies the following details while preparing for the retrofit:

*Note: This is not a comprehensive list, but a starting point. Depending on your project, you may want to verify more details, or fewer.*

- ) Pole height
- ) Voltage, wattage, and type of existing lamp
- ) Voltage, wattage, and type of existing ballast

## **2. Create a checklist for verifying basic site conditions**

Unforeseen challenges presented by the project site are just the kind of surprise you're trying to avoid the day of installation. Here's a non-comprehensive list of details to verify related to the job site to ensure you have a smooth installation:

- ) Distance between poles
- ) Hindrances (trees, slopes, etc.) to poles
- ) Building schedules and traffic patterns

## **3. Verify if existing fixtures have photocells**

Photocells could make your retrofit project more complicated. Knowing ahead of time whether your installer will have to deal with them — and whether they're connected to the building or the fixture itself — will help your preparations for the project greatly.

## **4. Focus on a product's warranty more than its rated life**

good-to-be-true life rating doesn't mean much if the manufacturer is not willing to back that claim with a fair warranty.

## **5. Choose a reputable manufacturer**

This tip is certainly not parking lot, parking garage, or exterior lighting-specific. It's critical to always vet manufacturers and make sure their products are proven. Don't take the bait on the cheap, off-brand stuff before having a discussion with your lighting specialist.

## **6. Consider surge protection for your high-dollar fixtures**

It may not be a bad idea to protect your investment in high-dollar fixtures with surge protection. Your electrical contractor or lighting specialist should be able to easily find

## **7. Check for rebates to help fund the project**

Always see if there's a rebate you can take advantage of to help free up some extra money for your lighting conversion projects. Your lighting specialist or local utility company representative should know if there are any that will work for you in your area.

## **8. Bring extra LED drivers to the job site**

What most often fails in a faulty LED fixture is the driver, not the diode. It's not a bad idea to have extra LED drivers on site to quickly replace in your new fixture, while you have the install crew and lift out at the job site. The alternative may be an incomplete project and unnecessary added costs, while the price of additional LED drivers is practically negligible.

## **9. Always beta test beforehand**

Finally, I recommend beta-testing your chosen product for each application before install day. You don't want to end up with a parking lot full of lighting that is too dim or too cool in color temperature. Undoing that is pricy and frustrating. I always urge customers to order just one fixture per application ahead of time for testing purposes.