



Albuquerque Hydroponics and Lighting
1051 San Mateo SE
Albuquerque, NM 87108
(505) 255-3677
ahlgrows.com
ahl@ahlgrows.com

TROUBLESHOOTING THE HID LAMP

STEP ONE: The first step in troubleshooting is to isolate the problem. Is the ballast receiving electricity? If you plug the lamp in and you hear a humming, then it is a good bet that the ballast is working. If you do not hear any humming check the plug and the outlet for a good connection. If there is still no humming from the ballast then open the back of the ballast box, check for solid wire connections. Check the transformer for burns, it is the big dark steel box. If the transformer is burnt then it must be taken to a light dealer for replacement. Another thing to check is the starter (HPS only) and the capacitor. They look like an oblong tin can. Check the sealed lip around each end of the can. The lip should be completely smooth and unwrinkled. If the ends are pinched out then your capacitor and/or starter are burnt out and must be replaced.

STEP TWO: If your ballast works then the problem must be with the bulb or the wiring. Check to ensure that the bulb is correctly and firmly screwed into the socket. This is by far the most common reason for bulb failure. With the bulb in place check all connections for heat and firm contact. (CAUTION: Make sure the ballast is unplugged before touching bare wires or connections). Inspect the arc tube inside the bulb. If it is dark, or the bulb is over two years, then it could be burnt out.

STEP THREE: If a fuse or breaker switch is thrown when you turn on the light, then there is an overload on the circuit. For safety reasons you should not use more than 80 percent of the amps available on that circuit. The amp rating should be printed on the breaker fuse.

STEP FOUR: If your lamp is flickering or pulsating, do not worry. It takes about 100 hours of operation for the lamp halogens in the arc tube to stabilize and pulsate less. Color changes are also normal and do not effect the life or lumens of the bulb.

STEP FIVE: Before restarting lamp allow bulb to cool for 15 minutes before it will relight. Handle bulbs gently, wipe off any fingerprints.

FACTS ABOUT YOUR HIGH INTENSITY DISCHARGE BULB

- * Small pieces of glass or metal inside your bulb are common with HID bulbs
- *The HID lamp must run with a ballast of the corresponding wattage and type of bulb. For instance with a 1000-watt Metal Halide bulb, use a 1000-watt Metal Halide ballast.
- *The HID lamp takes 3 minutes to warm up to 80% brightness. If the lamp is shut off after reaching full intensity, it takes approximately 10 to 20 minutes to restart.
- *During the first few hours of use, the light from the lamp will oscillate. The light will decrease in intensity during the life of the lamp.
- *For the first few hundred hours, the lamp may shift color. This is normal.
- *The average life of a halide bulb is 12,000 hours and the sodium bulb life is 24,000 hours. This is depending on how many times the lamp is turned on and off. Frequent on-off cycles will shorten the life of the lamp.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- *Do not look directly into the bulb during start up or operation.
- *If the exterior glass of the light bulb cracks, punctures, or breaks, immediately turn off the unit. Ultraviolet radiation from the HID lamp can cause serious skin burn or eye inflammation. The bulb may still work, but do not use it in that condition.
- *Scratching your bulb or subjecting it to undue pressure could cause it to shatter. Inspect your bulb periodically for scratches, discard the bulb if scratches exist.
- *Functioning or recently functioning bulbs are hot and may shatter or crack upon contact with water. Use caution when watering foliage beneath lighting units. Do not mist foliage while lights are on.
- *Do not remove or insert the bulb while power is on.