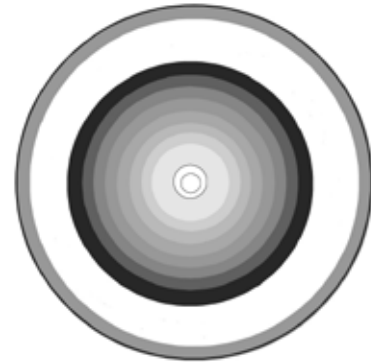


# Get to Know Your Fluorescent Lighting, Use the Flicker Checker

Spin the black and white Flicker Checker on a flat surface located beneath your overhead fluorescent light and away from direct, natural light. Any tabletop should do!

If you see **smooth, grey rings** on the Flicker Checker, the fluorescent fixture contains an electronic ballast. This suggests you have lighting that is energy efficient and uses T-8 or T-5 size bulbs, also known as lamps. **GOOD!**



If you see a **checkered pattern with hints of color** that moves from ring to ring, the fixture contains a magnetic ballast. Other indicators of magnetic ballasts; a flickering effect, a buzzing sound and poor quality light. This suggests you have lighting that wastes energy. **NOT SO GOOD!**

## How You Can Save

Consider replacing all magnetic ballasts with energy efficient electronic ballasts. At the same time, replace T-12 fluorescent tube lamps, with thinner, more efficient T-8s. In most cases, the lighting fixtures themselves do not need to be replaced when you replace ballasts and lamps.



**A simple upgrade to electronic ballasts and high performance T-8 lamps can reduce energy use by 30% to 50%.**

*This information comes from the NEED Project, Manassas, Virginia, [www.need.org](http://www.need.org).*

