What you need to know for LED car bulbs replacement

LEDs (light-emitting diodes) offer a number of advantages over incandescent lights, including lower energy consumption, longer lifetime, improved robustness and smaller size and are being increasingly used in OEM automotive applications.

There are some issues of which to be aware when switching from a conventional bulb to an LED replacement bulb.

- The LED color should be the same as the lens color or if bulb is behind a clear lens, use the appropriate color for turn and brake light functions. As an example: a red lens will filter out all but the red portion of the light so if the light is all red, none or very little light will be blocked by the lens. The light from a White LED replacement bulb contains very little light in the red portion of the visible spectrum so most of the light would be filtered out by a red lens.

- LED brake/tail lamps will not flash with thermal flasher units due to their extremely low current draw. Also, with stock flasher units, the turn signals may flash faster than normal (Hyper-Flash). These installations will require an electronic flasher unit.

- LED replacement bulb bulbs may cause some newer vehicles to indicate a bulb is burnt out (because of their low power consumption). Some cars indicate this by increasing the flash rate of the turn signals, some turn on a bad bulb indicator. The only fix for this is to install Load Resistors across the bulbs that are being indicated as bad. Some vehicles will also disable the cruise control system if a brake light bulb is being indicated as bad, the installation of Load Resistors will also solve this problem.

- While standard LED replacement bulb have many advantages over filament bulbs (longer life, faster on/off times, lower power consumption, more vivid colors), brightness is not one of them. This can be overcome either by using large numbers of LEDs, or by using High Power LED car bulbs are as bright or brighter than most standard filament car bulbs. The light is distributed differently so they can appear brighter in some applications and not as bright in others, depending on the size and shape of the bulb housing and reflector, the company says.

All of its LED replacement bulb for two full years when used in normal vehicle applications. It does not warrant the car bulbs when used in applications other than normal vehicle bulb installations or if used in headlamp housings (due to heat issues) or to replace GM Daytime Running Lights. Some GM vehicles apply a pulsed voltage to the Daytime Running Lights (DRL); this pulsed voltage causes LED bulbs to fail quickly.

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