

Why Product Warranty Matters—and Why DLC-Qualified Products Are a Smarter Investment

DLC Premium

Look for the Logo. Products that are ‘DLC-Listed’ will feature one of two icons below.



DLC Premium

DLC Premium is the highest tier of DLC certification, recognizing products that exceed standard DLC performance requirements. These fixtures offer greater energy efficiency, improved light quality, and higher efficacy, making them an excellent choice for projects seeking maximum energy savings, outstanding performance, and potential utility rebates.

When purchasing commercial or industrial LED lighting, one of the most important factors to consider is the **manufacturer's warranty**. A strong warranty reflects the manufacturer's confidence in the quality, durability, and long-term performance of its products. It also helps protect your investment by reducing the risk of unexpected replacement costs and downtime.

For facilities that operate lighting for extended hours each day, choosing fixtures backed by a comprehensive warranty can significantly lower maintenance expenses and provide greater peace of mind.

The Value of a Five-Year Warranty

Many commercial LED fixtures are installed in locations where maintenance is costly or disruptive. Whether it's a warehouse, parking garage, manufacturing facility, or office building, replacing failed fixtures requires both time and labor.

A minimum five-year warranty provides several important benefits:

- Protection against manufacturing defects and premature failures
- Lower maintenance and replacement costs

- Increased confidence in long-term product performance
- Better return on your lighting investment
- Reduced operational disruptions

While warranty terms vary by manufacturer, longer warranties are often associated with products built using higher-quality components and designed for extended service life.

How DLC Qualification Supports Warranty Confidence

One indicator of a reliable lighting product is **DLC (DesignLights Consortium) qualification**. Unlike safety certifications such as UL or ETL, DLC qualification evaluates a product's energy efficiency and overall performance.

To earn DLC qualification, products must meet rigorous third-party performance standards, including requirements for:

- High energy efficiency
- Consistent light output
- Long-term lumen maintenance
- Extended rated lifetime
- A minimum five-year manufacturer's warranty for most product categories

Because DLC-qualified products undergo independent testing, buyers can have greater confidence that the fixture is designed to perform as advertised throughout its expected lifespan.

More Than Just a Warranty

While a strong warranty offers valuable protection, DLC qualification provides additional benefits that help maximize the value of your lighting investment.

Proven Energy Efficiency

DLC-qualified products are tested to verify their efficacy, ensuring they deliver excellent light output while consuming less energy. This translates into lower operating costs over the life of the fixture.

Utility Rebate Eligibility Many utility rebate programs require DLC-qualified products to qualify for financial incentives. Choosing DLC-qualified lighting may help offset project costs through available rebates.

Be sure to check with your local utility provider for current rebate eligibility and program requirements.

Independently Verified Performance

Rather than relying solely on manufacturer claims, DLC-qualified products have been independently tested to confirm they meet established performance standards for efficiency, light quality, and longevity.

Smart Lighting Capabilities

Many DLC-qualified fixtures also support advanced lighting controls, including occupancy sensors, daylight harvesting, and dimming functions that further improve energy savings.

Choosing Lighting You Can Count On

A quality warranty is one of the clearest indicators that a manufacturer stands behind its products. When that warranty is paired with DLC qualification, you're choosing lighting that has been independently verified for performance, efficiency, and reliability.

Whether you're upgrading an existing facility or specifying products for a new project, selecting fixtures backed by both a strong manufacturer's warranty and DLC qualification helps ensure lower maintenance costs, improved energy savings, and dependable performance for years to come.

Verify Before You Buy

You can confirm whether a product is DLC qualified by searching the **DesignLights Consortium Qualified Products List (QPL)**. The database allows you to search by manufacturer or model number and review information such as:

- DLC qualification status
- Product category
- Energy efficacy
- Rated lifetime
- Warranty information
- Lighting control capabilities

Verifying a product before purchasing helps ensure you're investing in lighting that meets recognized industry performance standards.

More DLC

If energy efficiency and high-quality lighting are important when choosing light fixtures, you've likely come across the term **DLC Listed**. But what does it mean?

The **DesignLights Consortium (DLC)** is a nonprofit organization that develops performance standards for commercial LED lighting and controls. While DLC certification is voluntary, it serves as a trusted benchmark for energy efficiency, lighting performance, and controllability. Many utility companies also use DLC certification to determine eligibility for energy rebates and incentive programs.

DLC Technical Requirement Updates

The DLC periodically reviews and updates its technical requirements to reflect advances in lighting technology and industry best practices. These updates are developed with input from utility energy efficiency programs, manufacturers, and other industry stakeholders.

Each new version typically raises performance standards to encourage greater energy savings, improved light quality, and smarter lighting controls. The current standard is **DLC Technical Requirements Version 6.0**, which became effective in January 2026.

DLC Listed vs. Non-Listed Products

DLC Listed Products

A **DLC Listed** product is a luminaire or retrofit kit that has been independently reviewed and approved by the DesignLights Consortium. To qualify, the product must meet all applicable DLC performance requirements for efficiency, light quality, and, where applicable, controllability.

DLC certification helps ensure products deliver:

- High energy efficiency
- Reliable light output and quality
- Reduced glare
- Enhanced lighting controls
- Long-term performance

One of DLC's primary goals is to promote lighting systems that improve everyday environments while reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.

DLC Non-Listed Products

A **DLC Non-Listed** product is one that either:

- Has not been submitted for DLC certification, or
- Does not meet the current DLC requirements.

It's important to note that a non-listed product is not necessarily low quality or inefficient. Many products simply have not gone through the certification process. However, they may not qualify for utility rebates or other incentive programs that require DLC listing.

DLC Premium

DLC Premium is a higher certification tier for products that exceed the standard DLC performance requirements.

Compared to standard DLC Listed products, DLC Premium products offer:

- Higher energy efficiency
- Better lighting performance
- Increased efficacy
- Greater long-term energy savings

LUNA Technical Requirements

The **LUNA** program focuses specifically on outdoor lighting and reducing light pollution.

LUNA-certified fixtures are designed to provide effective illumination while minimizing unnecessary light emissions. Requirements include:

- Warmer color temperatures
- No uplight
- Controlled light distribution
- Maximum lumen limits
- Improved fixture shielding

These standards help reduce skyglow, protect nighttime visibility, and create more environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.

Networked Lighting Controls (NLCs)

In addition to lighting fixtures, the DLC also certifies **Networked Lighting Controls (NLCs)**.

These systems allow multiple smart fixtures to communicate through a centralized network, making it easier to:

- Reduce energy consumption
- Schedule lighting
- Automate occupancy-based control
- Monitor system performance
- Improve building efficiency

Benefits of Choosing DLC Listed Products

Whether you're a contractor, facility manager, or building owner, choosing DLC Listed products offers several advantages.

Utility Rebates

Many utility providers offer rebates or cash incentives for qualifying DLC Listed products, helping reduce project costs. Check with your local utility company to learn which products are eligible.

Lower Energy Costs

Because DLC Listed products meet strict efficiency requirements, they consume less electricity and can significantly reduce long-term operating expenses.

Verified Performance

DLC certification provides confidence that products have been independently evaluated for performance, light quality, and efficiency.

Smarter Lighting

Many DLC-certified products support advanced lighting controls that improve occupant comfort, productivity, safety, and energy management.