

Buck Booster FAQs

Why do I need a buck booster?

- Units that operate on a choke start system usually require a buck booster. Choke start systems are very voltage dependent. When properly installed and wired, a buck booster will either "buck" (decrease) or "boost" (increase) the incoming line voltage so it is at the level that the unit was designed to operate.
- For example, if the salon voltage is 246, and the unit calls for 230 volts, a buck booster should be installed to bring down the voltage.
- Most companies sell buck boosters in either a +/- 16/32-volt or +/- 12/24-volt configuration.
- If unsure about your unit's correct operating voltage, contact the distributor or manufacturer from which the unit was purchased.

How do I determine what size buck booster I need?

- Buck boosters are available in several different sizes. The most common are 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0, and various 3-phase configurations. This number is expressed in KVA (i.e., 0.5KVA).
- The size required depends on the running amperage of the tanning unit.
 - As a rule of thumb, most 24 through 28 lamps use a 0.5KVA. Most units with 30 lamp units or more use a 1.0 KVA.
 - Larger units such as 42 lamps and higher vary between the 1.0 KVA and the 1.5 KVA.
 - Many stand up units and high-pressure units require the 2.0 KVA buck booster.
 - Some require special 3 phase buck booster transformers.
 - Consult the equipment manufacturer for specific voltage, amperage, and KVA requirements for your unit.

Who should wire the buck booster to the proper voltage?

- A licensed electrician should wire the buck booster and connect it to your tanning unit.

If I change locations, do I have to buy a new buck booster?

- As long as the buck booster is in proper working order, it can be rewired for the new locations voltage if necessary.

How many buck boosters do I need for each tanning unit?

- Most tanning units only require one per unit. There are instances 2 or more per unit will be required.
- If your location is on a 3-phase system, it is recommended to obtain a booster specifically for 3-phase installation. It is possible to use 2 or more single-phase boosters instead.
- For example, if the location is on 3-phase Delta 208V, 2 single-phase buck boosters may be required per unit. With 3-phase "Y" 208V, 3 may be required. It makes sense economically to use 1 three-phase booster instead.
- Contact the equipment manufacturer or distributor and consult with your electrician to determine exactly how many buck boost transformers you will require.