

Capacitor FAQs

How do I know what capacitor is needed?

- Have make, model, and year of the tanning unit.
Write down numbers from the capacitor out of the unit. The most important number is the one that ends in "uF" or "mF". This is the microfarad rating.
- Many original capacitors have been replaced by another type of aftermarket capacitor. Do not be surprised if the capacitor is a different size, shape, or has different means of attachment. Contact the company you purchased the capacitor from if you have questions.

What exactly is a capacitor?

- A capacitor is an electrical condenser. Its purpose is to store an electrical charge. They are used when direct current must be prevented from entering a certain part of an electrical circuit.
- Capacitors are found in choke start systems. The capacitor is used to provide "power factor correction". It helps to change or "condition" how the lamp operates.

How do I test a capacitor to see if it needs replacing?

- After removing power from the unit at the main breaker panel, disconnect the capacitor from the unit. Remember, a capacitor stores an electrical charge after it has been disconnected.
- Using a screwdriver, pry off the plastic cap at the connection end of the capacitor. To discharge, lay the metal end of the screwdriver across the terminals.
- Once the capacitor is discharged, set voltage meter to Ohms. Put the test leads of voltage meter on the contacts of the capacitor for a few seconds. Then set voltage meter to DC volts.
- At first, you will get a high reading. If the capacitor is good, it will eventually fall to zero. If it does not fall to zero, the capacitor is bad.

How do I install a replacement capacitor?

- It is advised to hire a licensed electrician to install a capacitor.
- Usually the replacement capacitor is attached to the unit in the same manner that the original one was.
- Some capacitors have been replaced by alternate capacitors. They may be of different size, shape, and attachment methods. Contact an electrician or the company from which the part was purchased for instructions.