

LUTRON®

For Your Information ...



Guide to dimming portable lamps via receptacles.

Overview

Lutron offers a special receptacle for dimming use. This product is available as a duplex for dimming use (DFDU) in which both outlets are dimmable, and as a half for dimming use (HFDU) in which only the top outlet is dimmable. These receptacles provide a solution for dimming portable lamps directly through a receptacle in both residential and commercial applications. They are UL listed to be controlled by only specific Lutron dimmers. This guide provides answers to typical questions encountered by Lutron's Technical Assistance and Applications personnel concerning dimming receptacles.

FAQ's

Why do I need a special receptacle for dimming use?

The National Electrical Code® (NEC®) prohibits the dimming of standard receptacles. The dimmable outlets of the DFDU and HFDU are specifically designed to mechanically reject all NEMA standard plugs and thus can not be used for any other device (fan, heater, vacuum, radio, etc.). These receptacles will only accept the special mating Lutron replacement plug for dimming use (RP-FDU). The result is an NEC® compliant way to control a portable lamp with a dimmer.

How does the Lutron receptacle for dimming use comply with the National Electrical Code®?

Technically, the receptacle for dimming use and replacement plug system comprises a "special-purpose connector" whose specific intention is to establish a unique electrical connection between the portable lamp and dimmer. The DFDU and HFDU with the RP-FDU plug are UL listed for use with specific Lutron dimmers for the control of portable lamps. The list of UL listed dimmers compatible with the DFDU, HFDU, and RP-FDU can be found in the product spec submittal form and instruction sheets.

What kind of lamp may I connect through a receptacle for dimming use?

You may use any UL listed two-wire lamp with SPT-2 cord as long as the load type, wattage, and dimmer are compatible since the dimmable receptacle simply acts as an electrical connection. Although the Lutron special replacement plug's rating of 10A will limit the size of the load, it is possible for the dimmer's rating, 600W (5A) for example, to be the limiting factor of the load size.

May I replace my current switched receptacle with either the DFDU or HFDU?

Yes, a DFDU may replace a switched receptacle only when the receptacle is not a required receptacle necessary for compliance with the NEC®. Otherwise, you must gang the DFDU with a standard receptacle or install the DFDU in a new location by itself. The HFDU may replace a switched receptacle in which only one half is switched. If both receptacles of a standard duplex are switched, additional wiring may need to be fed to the HFDU to control each half independently. Refer to spec submittal or instruction sheet for wiring diagrams.

Worldwide Technical and Sales Assistance

If you need assistance call the toll-free **Lutron Technical Support Center**. Please provide exact model number when calling.

24 hours/day + 7 days/week

(800) 523-9466 (U.S.A. and Canada)

Other countries call (610) 282-3800

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