



LED Ribbon and Tape Light products:

Ribbon/Tape Lights may be some of the simplest, most cost-effective linear products to arrive in the market for some time. To achieve desired results, it is important to know the quality and specification of the LEDs installed. Quality, consistency and reliability vary greatly, especially in Asian-made generic LEDs.

Clip-on connectors may be susceptible to premature failure in damp and wet conditions. Instead, we recommend soldered and sealed connections in these environments.

Solvents and electronics are not compatible, and Tape Lights are electronic boards and components. Sealants, including silicone-based sealants, are not all the same. Those created to seal a window can eat away at electronic components, mostly due to the ingredients that hasten curing. Use the right sealants for electronics.

LED Ribbon/Tape is typically current regulated with resistors within its components. Such products typically dim reasonably well with linear power supplies from full voltage down to around 40% of full voltage, at which time they no longer light. Within this same range, dimming typically moves from full to about 10% output. PWM-based dimming systems can achieve smoother and more exacting requirements where needed.

Any LED product claiming 100K hours of life is advertised in a misleading fashion. Since the output of all light sources degrades with use, the lighting industry has designated useful life standards. In whites, 40K to 50K of life at or above 70% of original output is typical of a reasonable quality LED.

Regulated power supplies protect LED products from being overpowered, which can lead to shortened useful life, less efficiency and, sometimes, catastrophic failure.