

Frequently Asked Questions

vario™ Shelter Solar Lite Kit

Q – Can I set the light to run from dusk to dawn?

A – No. The light is designed for intermittent use throughout the night. The battery and solar panel would need to be significantly larger to operate a “dusk to dawn” lighting application.

Q – How long will a battery typically last?

A – The battery should last an average of 2 – 3 years. However, in colder climates the battery may not last as long, and conversely, in warmer climates the battery may last longer.

Q – Will the light work if I place it in the shade?

A – The light is solar; it must be exposed to direct sunlight in order to completely charge the battery. Having shade over the light will reduce the effectiveness of the solar panel and could cause the light to stop functioning.

Q – How many hours of sunlight do I need each day so that the light will operate?

A – You need at least 4 “solar hours” per day for your light to operate with a 100% safety factor. See the “Solar Hours Per Day By Location” chart on the next page to determine the solar hours for your location. If you are in a location that has *less* than 4 solar hours, your system will have *less* reserve power than an area with *more* than 4 solar hours.

Q – How long will the light operate without a recharge?

A – It depends on your location. In sunny areas, such as southern California or Arizona, the battery will last several days without a recharge. In areas such as the state of Washington or Michigan, there are less “solar hours” per day, therefore less charging time per day, and the battery will not last as long. Refer to the “Solar Hours Per Day By Location” chart in the manual to determine the solar hours for your location. The more solar hours indicated for your location, the longer your solar light will operate without a recharge.

Q – Where can I get a replacement battery?

A – There are three battery sizes depending on the type of vario™ shelter being installed – 12, 26 and 55 amp hour batteries. All batteries are *sealed-lead-acid batteries*. Replacement batteries may be purchased through a Florence dealer or from a local store or other supplier that carries this type of battery. If you purchase a battery locally, be sure that the battery is sized properly to fit into the battery holder in the vario™ controller unit.

Q – Where can I get other replacement parts?

A – Contact your authorized Florence dealer for replacement parts for the vario™ solar lite kit or for any Florence products.

Q – Will the light work immediately after I take it out of the box?

A – The battery will need to charge before the light will work. It may take several hours of direct sunlight before the battery is fully charged.

Solar Hours per Day By Location

State	City	High	Low	Avg	State	City	High	Low	Avg
AK	Fairbanks	5.87	2.12	3.99	MO	Columbia	5.50	3.97	4.73
AK	Matanuska	5.24	1.74	3.55	MO	St. Louis	4.87	3.24	4.38
AL	Montgomery	4.69	3.37	4.23	MS	Meridian	4.86	3.64	4.43
AR	Bethel	6.29	2.37	3.81	MT	Glasgow	5.97	4.09	5.15
AR	Little Rock	5.29	3.88	4.69	MT	Great Falls	5.70	3.66	4.93
AZ	Tucson	7.42	6.01	6.57	MT	Summit	5.17	2.36	3.99
AZ	Page	7.30	5.65	6.36	NM	Albuquerque	7.16	6.21	6.77
AZ	Phoenix	7.13	5.78	6.58	NE	Lincoln	5.40	4.38	4.79
CA	Santa Maria	6.52	5.42	5.94	NE	N. Omaha	5.28	4.26	4.90
CA	Riverside	6.35	5.35	5.87	NC	Cape Hatteras	5.81	4.69	5.31
CA	Davis	6.09	3.31	5.10	NC	Greensboro	5.05	4.00	4.71
CA	Fresno	6.19	3.42	5.38	ND	Bismarck	5.48	3.97	5.01
CA	Los Angeles	6.14	5.03	5.62	NJ	Sea Brook	4.76	3.20	4.21
CA	Soda Springs	6.47	4.40	5.60	NV	Las Vegas	7.13	5.84	6.41
CA	La Jolla	5.24	4.29	4.77	NV	Ely	6.48	5.49	5.98
CA	Inyokern	8.70	6.87	7.66	NY	Binghamton	3.93	1.62	3.16
CO	Granby	7.47	5.15	5.69	NY	Ithaca	4.57	2.29	3.79
CO	Grand Lake	5.86	3.56	5.08	NY	Schenectady	3.92	2.53	3.55
CO	Grand Junction	6.34	5.23	5.85	NY	Rochester	4.22	1.58	3.31
CO	Boulder	5.72	4.44	4.87	NY	New York City	4.97	3.03	4.08
DC	Washington	4.69	3.37	4.23	OH	Columbus	5.26	2.66	4.15
FL	Apalachicola	5.98	4.92	5.49	OH	Cleveland	4.79	2.69	3.94
FL	Belie Is.	5.31	4.58	4.99	OK	Stillwater	5.52	4.22	4.99
FL	Miami	6.26	5.05	5.62	OK	Oklahoma City	6.26	4.98	5.59
FL	Gainesville	5.81	4.71	5.27	OR	Astoria	4.76	1.99	3.72
FL	Tampa	6.16	5.26	5.67	OR	Corvallis	5.71	1.90	4.03
GA	Atlanta	5.16	4.09	4.74	OR	Medford	5.84	2.02	4.51
GA	Griffin	5.41	4.26	4.99	PA	Pittsburg	4.19	1.45	3.28
HI	Honolulu	6.71	5.59	6.02	PA	State College	4.44	2.79	3.91
IA	Ames	4.80	3.73	4.40	RI	Newport	4.69	3.58	4.23
ID	Boise	5.83	3.33	4.92	SC	Charleston	5.72	4.23	5.06
ID	Twin Falls	5.42	3.42	4.70	SD	Rapid City	5.91	4.56	5.23
IL	Chicago	4.08	1.47	3.14	TN	Nashville	5.20	3.14	4.45
IN	Indianapolis	5.02	2.55	4.21	TN	Oak Ridge	5.06	3.22	4.37
KS	Manhattan	5.08	3.62	4.57	TX	San Antonio	5.88	4.65	5.30
KS	Dodge City	4.14	5.28	5.79	TX	Brownsville	5.49	4.42	4.92
KY	Lexington	5.97	3.60	4.94	TX	El Paso	7.42	5.87	6.72
LA	Lake Charles	5.73	4.29	4.93	TX	Midland	6.33	5.23	5.83
LA	New Orleans	5.71	3.63	4.92	TX	Fort Worth	6.00	4.80	5.43
LA	Shreveport	4.99	3.87	4.63	UT	Salt Lake City	6.09	3.78	5.26
MA	E. Wareham	4.48	3.06	3.99	UT	Flaming Gorge	6.63	5.48	5.83
MA	Boston	4.27	2.99	3.84	VA	Richmond	4.50	3.37	4.13
MA	Blue Hill	4.38	3.33	4.05	WA	Seattle	4.83	1.60	3.57
MA	Natick	4.62	3.09	4.10	WA	Richland	6.13	2.01	4.44
MA	Lynn	4.60	2.33	3.79	WA	Pullman	6.07	2.90	4.73
MD	Silver Hill	4.71	3.84	4.47	WA	Spokane	5.53	1.16	4.48
ME	Caribou	5.62	2.57	4.19	WA	Prosser	6.21	3.06	5.03
ME	Portland	5.23	3.56	4.51	WI	Madison	4.85	3.28	4.29
MI	Sault Ste. Marie	4.83	2.33	4.20	WV	Charleston	4.12	2.47	3.65
MI	E. Lansing	4.71	2.70	4.00	WY	Lander	6.81	5.50	6.06
MN	St. Cloud	5.43	3.53	4.53					



Troubleshooting Guide - vario™ Shelter Solar Lite Kit

Symptom	Possible Causes	Corrective Action
Light does not work	A wire is disconnected or loose	Remove solar panel and inspect inside of unit for disconnected wire. Reattach or tighten wire that has come loose.
	Battery is dead	Make sure solar panel is exposed to sunlight so it charges. Shade from trees will not allow the solar panel to charge the battery adequately. Trees may need to be trimmed or the light may need to be moved to operate correctly. If the light is properly exposed to sunlight but still does not work, the battery may need to be replaced. Battery life is typically 2 - 3 years, depending on climate and usage. In colder climates the battery may expire sooner.
	Battery is not being charged	Make sure solar panel is exposed to sunlight so it charges. Shade from trees will not allow the solar panel to charge the battery adequately. Be careful to place light where it will receive direct sunlight.
	Solar panel is damaged	Replace solar panel. See the "Service Parts" section of the installation manual.
	Solar panel is dirty	Clean dirt/debris from solar panel using a soft cloth and warm water.
	Charge controller is not working	Remove solar panel and inspect inside of unit to determine if charge controller is not working. If the charge controller is working, the green LED should illuminate when the solar panel is exposed to sunlight.
Light goes on during the day	Wrong sensor settings	Remove solar panel and locate sensor dials. Adjust the "PHOTOCELL" dial more towards the "night" setting (clockwise). See the "Motion Sensor Settings" section of the installation manual.
	Sensor is no longer operational	If the LED on the sensor does not illuminate when motion is present, the sensor may no longer work and require replacement. See the "Service Parts" section of the installation manual.
Light does not stay on long enough	Wrong sensor settings	Remove solar panel and locate sensor dials. Adjust the "TIME" dial more towards the "12 Min" setting (clockwise). See the "Motion Sensor Settings" section of the solar lite kit installation manual.
Light stays on too long	Wrong sensor settings	Remove solar panel and locate sensor dials. Adjust the "TIME" dial more towards the "5 Sec" setting (counter-clockwise). See the "Motion Sensor Settings" section of the installation manual.
Light only works for the first few hours of the night.	Battery is not being charged completely	Make sure solar panel is exposed to sunlight so it charges. Shade from trees will not allow the solar panel to charge the battery adequately. Be careful to place light where it will receive direct sunlight.
Light turns on when no one is present	Wrong sensor settings	Remove solar panel and locate sensor dials. Adjust the "SENSITIVITY" dial more towards the "30%" setting (counter-clockwise). See the "Motion Sensor Settings" section of the installation manual.