

UV Preventative Maintenance

by Charles Buckley, Wastewater Tech

The use of Ultra Violet Disinfection has been around for decades. In 1878 it was discovered that sunlight kills microbes in broth. In 1910 the first UV system was used to disinfect drinking water. In the 1970's the EPA discouraged the use of chlorine. In the 1970's the EPA also started funding research and grants for UV systems. In 1978 full scale UV system was successfully used at a wastewater plant. In 1982 modular UV system for open channel disinfection in wastewater was introduced. Since then the use of UV disinfection has continued to grow.

With that being said I would like to share some tips on maintenance on your UV system. UV disinfection is required during the recreational months starting May 1st thru September 30th.

Change your UV bulb every two years or as needed. UV bulbs typically last for 9000 hours and in time lose intensity. Order bulbs in advance or always have spares on hand. As we have seen with the resent situation parts and materials are on back order or currently on hold. Keep the sleeves clean of contaminants. The buildup will inhibit disinfection.

Make sure all energy sources are disconnected before handling. Never look directly at lit lamps even with UV safety glasses or shield. Clean sleeves using a soft cloth soaked in vinegar, mild acid or commercial scale remover like CLR. Remember always use proper PPE such as gloves, UV safety glasses. Inspect all electrical wires ballasts and connections.

Always read your Owner's Manuals and Manufacturer's Instructions before handling the UV unit. Store in a dry climate-controlled area when it is not being used.