

History of UV

Key Discoveries in the Germ-Killing Power of Light

1877 - Downes & Blunt discovered the anti-bacterial effects of sunlight. They determined that shorter wavelengths of solar spectrum were more effective at neutralizing bacteria

1903 – Barnard and Morgan validated the UV spectrum from 226 nm to 328 nm are germicidal

1904 – Lorch developed the first UV quartz lamp

1906 – UV was first used to disinfect drinking water

1940 – UV incorporated into air conditioning systems

1942 – Military adopted UV for inclusion in barracks for the protection of soldiers in Army and Navy

2000 – The US Army recommends UVGI for the isolation of disease

2003 – The CDC endorsed the use of UVGI in hospitals; FEMA approved use of bio-defense systems based on UVGI for buildings

1870s

1890s

1900s

1930s

1940s

1950s

2000s

2010s

1892 - Professor Marshall Ward determined that violet-blue and UV portions of spectrum are biocidal

1936 – Hospitals implemented the first overhead UV system

1937 – First upper air disinfection units installed in schools

1957 – Study conducted by Riley conclusively proved that UV was effective for the control of tuberculosis

Studies continue to prove the effectiveness of UV and Violet-Blue light in multiple applications including operating rooms and bio-terror threats