

Methodist Healthcare Systems, HCA of San Antonio, Texas chose UVC Germicidal Fixtures from American Ultraviolet

Please let me preface all following comments by stating that I am familiar with studies conducted at Duke University on using ultraviolet light to reduce infections. In addition, I recently reviewed a new government study from an RTI/EPA testing facility that showed American Ultraviolet products are far superior to any other lamps on the market. In the new report, researchers wished to see how long UVC lamps would maintain 254nm at 42 degrees, with 65% outside air humidity. The results indicated that not only do American Ultraviolet lamps, which we use at Methodist Healthcare Systems, HCA, outperform and outlast all others, they also maintain a 24-month life span, with a small variance in production, even though they were originally, "conservatively," rated for only 18-months. Please let me also state that I am not on the payroll of American Ultraviolet, nor do I receive any compensatory handouts, so it is with complete irreverence toward any brand that I offer the following experiences related to our germ warfare.

A recent advertisement from Steril-Aire boasts about how their product performs "before the cooling coil." However, if you put their "best" unit (which I found to be sub-reliable) behind a coil, where *Aspergillus* grows rampant, the Sterile-Aire fixtures will fail, and, as we unfortunately discovered first hand (and paid the price for), the lamps will not even maintain 254nm at 42 degrees, therefore leaving you with your "proverbial pants down."

In doing my research, as I always do when embarking on such a project as selecting a vendor for UVC fixtures, and following the horrible failures from Sterile-Aire fixtures we previously used, I have found that American Ultraviolet is indeed the industry leader, a company that has been engineering lamps for more than 50 years, initially combating TB, a predominant threat in the 1950's.

More Proof

Every Sterile-Aire fixture I have installed has failed, and most within a few months, except for the mother-baby unit, a super small unit that has a lot of "conditioned" return air that drastically reduces the fixture killing humidity.

How many American Ultraviolet fixtures have failed in the 3-years we've used them? Zero! Zilch! Nada! None! We did receive a few cracked bulbs, and broken quartz tubes, due to gorilla manhandling of supplies between Indiana and Texas, but with one phone call all items that were broken were replaced the next day, and I was never asked to return, or show, the broken items. We can't scare a visit out of our Sterile-Aire reps in Austin, Texas, which is much closer than Indiana. And do you think Sterile-Aire provided any type of warranty on items that were damaged due to moisture? Their direct answer, "Well, they have moisture in them, so you must have mounted them after the coil, in which case we cannot guarantee they won't get wet or continue to function."

American Ultraviolet Fixtures

At Methodist Healthcare Systems in San Antonio we use American Ultraviolet UFHO

SS series fixtures that incorporate a quartz tube surrounding the lamp, or "emitter," and an O-ring on each end of the lamp. When placed inside the quartz tube the lamp is in a surrounded warm air space and, when used in the air handler at low temperatures, actually on a graph begins to climb as the temperature decreases. The result is that the emitters remain consistent, reliable, and most of all, effective at killing germs at 254nm.

I completely understand that many companies create and promote charts, graphs, and whatnot. Well I could create a beautiful chart showing how leather boots kill black mold better than just about anything else. But rather than relying on my chart making skills I chose to rely on the experts at Duke University. It's a teaching hospital. And it's been around a few years. I simply did not want to waste any more of our hospitals money trying units that claim to do this or that. Instead I found out who the industry leader is, American Ultraviolet, the company who founded this type of UVC technology, and a company that uses American products, made in America, by Americans.

American Ultraviolet Service

I also found a company who services their products without a hassle. Meredith Stines, President and CEO of American Ultraviolet, has gone so far as personally answering my e-mails at 3:00 a.m. San Antonio time, as soon as they were sent. We e-mailed back and forth a few times so quickly it was as if we were on a chat line. Meredith also sent members of his staff to our hospital and educated us on all the ins and outs of UV products, mold, aspergillus, nm counts, what it takes to kill germs and under what conditions, and all of this at no cost to us. We did not have to issue one single P.O. to have experts from American Ultraviolet come measure units, take pictures, and manufacture to our specifications the lamps we need for our facility. And it wasn't just one visit and goodbye, but service like this occurs whenever we have questions.

Would we ever use Sterile-Aire for anything? Yes. We use Sterile-Aire's monitor to report to our Computrols systems irradiance levels of our bulbs and lifespan. This is something we are just now beginning to watch through the computer, but we've been using their monitors on all of our equipment and I have nothing bad to say about them.

Conclusion:

Side by side testing in reliability shows, hands down, that Sterile-Aire has nothing I know of that comes close to the newest of the American Ultraviolet UVC products, much less the model we use, the UFHO SS. I like where we are with Meredith Stines, and American Ultraviolet - a partnership that money simply cannot buy.

I believe every word I have written to be as true as anything I have ever attested to.

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