

Your Drinking Water: Making It Safer with UV Disinfection

What is UV Disinfection?

UV stands for ultraviolet light, which is light that has a shorter wavelength than can be seen with your eye. It is what causes sunburn damage to your skin! By passing UV light through water, various micro-organisms can be killed or inactivated.

Why is the Sheboygan Water Utility adding UV Disinfection?

In the water industry, it has become recognized that one disinfection barrier is not sufficient. Although the Water Utility has used chlorine effectively for a long time, new technologies now exist to provide even greater levels of protection for drinking water. Several other technologies exist, but UV is the most economical. UV will provide additional protection against cryptosporidium, giardia, and a number of viruses that could potentially penetrate the water system. UV will provide greater safety to the community's drinking water system.

Will I notice any change in my water?

No, not at all. UV does not produce any known by-products in drinking water. It is not a chemical additive.

Will the Water Utility still use chlorine?

Yes, chlorine will remain the primary disinfectant. It is also needed because it carries through into the water distribution system and provides disinfectant capability in the water main, pipes, and private water laterals.

Is it expensive?

Technology isn't cheap. Despite the addition of a UV disinfection system, the Sheboygan Water Utility will still have one of the lowest water rates in the state.

When will it be turned on?

The construction project should be complete before May 2016.



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