

Ultraviolet light



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Ultraviolet Light The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief discussion on the topic of ultraviolet light. The format that this paper will utilize is to first address some natural sources of UV light followed by a discussion of black light. After this point a discussion on the benefits and possible drawbacks of UV light. UV light is a source of electromagnetic radiation that is not part of the visible spectrum. Even though this light is not visible its effects can be felt by humans through the process of sunburns. The wavelength of UV light is ultimately shorter than that of light that is in the visible spectrum yet is also longer than X-rays. One common source of UV light is produced through black lights. These devices are lamps that are designed to produce electromagnetic radiation that is still ultraviolet yet remains partially visible. This process can be accomplished through any number of means but the effect can be achieved simply through the application of a filter that removes some of the visible light. Ultimately it is among the safest forms of the light as it is in the UVA region and has a relatively long range. This long-range translates to a low frequency which ultimately means that it is low energy. Although some negative health consequences can result from intense or long term exposure it is still considered relatively harmless. This brings into question whether or not there are any beneficial effects of UV light. It is the case that UV light is a kind of double edged sword as there are both beneficial and harmful effects. UV light helps stimulate the production of vitamin D in humans. However prolonged exposure can cause painful sunburns and even alter human DNA and ultimately cause the growth of certain types of cancer.