

*Better than saline,  
Much better than chlorine,  
Our pool is now UV!*



Thanks to the following foundations for generously supporting the Rogue Valley Family YMCA and providing the funding to install the UV system:



### **What is the UV Water Purifying System?**

The UV (**U**ltra**V**iolet) system simply disinfects water while passing by an ultraviolet light bulb. It is better than saline pools and much better than our old chlorine system. It is better for you, better for the environment and saves money. No more chlorine smell, no more burning eyes, no more itchy skin, and your bathing suits will last longer.

### **Is all the chlorine gone?**

No, there is still a little chlorine used for extra protection. Our UV system is the first in Southern Oregon. Our chlorine level dropped from 5 parts per million to 1 part per million.

### **What does the Health Department think about this?**

The Jackson County Health Department approved the installation of the new UV system on March 25, 2009. They inspect us every six months and we exceed the required standards. Some states are now requiring that all swimming pools have a UV system.

### **How can I see the UV in action?**

Brad Russell, YMCA Executive Director, will gladly give you a demonstration in his office which is located in the lobby by the front door. Ask for the YMCA's 2008-2012 strategic plan while you are there.

### **Who says UV is better than saline pools?**

The World Health Organization makes the claim. They report that a UV pool is "near drinking water standards". The different systems are described on the back of this page.

## To better understand the different water purifying systems:

**Ultraviolet System:** Cleaner and healthier pool with up to 95% reduction in chemical use. Destroys germs, bacteria, virus, and algae in seconds of passing the ultraviolet bulb in a fraction of the time. 99.9% Inactivation of *cryptosporidium*, *giardia*, and other bacteria that chlorine and saline/salt systems can't destroy. Significant reduction in chloramines, trihalomethanes and other disinfection by-products. Can relieve swimming related asthma. This water is "bug free", crystal clear, soft and odorless, near drinking water standards.

**Saline/Salt System:** "Soft, clear water", but the "bugs" like it better too. Salt generated chlorine can't kill *crypto*, *giardia* and others. Reacts even slower with other bacteria. Generates disinfection by-products. Many other chemicals needed. Requires addition of cyanuric acid for stabilizer. Costly replacement cells. Cells must be cleaned often. Removal of salt build-up requires yet another chemical.

**Chlorine System:** Strong odor. Many other chemicals needed. Can't kill *crypto*, *giardia* and others. Reacts very slowly with other bacteria. Generates disinfection by-products. Must be kept in balance. Requires constant monitoring and special handling. You're swimming in chemicals.

### Source:

World Health Organization, *Guidelines for safe recreational waters Volume 2 - Swimming pools and similar recreational-water environments*. [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/bathing/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/bathing/en/)

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Ys are collectively the largest operator of swimming pools in the USA**

**The YMCA in America has a long history of aquatic firsts:**

- 1885 - World's first indoor swimming pool is dedicated at the Brooklyn, NY YMCA
- 1907 - World's first mass swim lessons begin at the Detroit YMCA by George Corsan
- 1909 - The YMCA invented the first filtration system for swimming pools
- 1913 - YMCAs pioneered lifesaving, plus the first book on lifesaving was written
- 1961 - First mobile swimming pool was invented at Eastern Union County, NJ YMCA
- 2006 - YMCAs celebrate 100 years of group swimming instruction

# YAQUATICS™