

# Maximize Ultraviolet Clarifier Performance

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Incorporate [UV clarifiers](#) as an invaluable tool in an [algae control](#) regimen. As water flows through the UV unit, free-floating algae are exposed to ultraviolet light and flocculate. The algal material is then trapped in the [mechanical filter media](#) and removed from the water column.

UV clarifier use is a great means of controlling algae and achieving clear water. To extend the life and efficiency of your UV clarifier, take prompt preventive action and run your UV clarifier before algae becomes a problem. Don't wait until algae growth has reached aggressive nuisance proportions.

Also, no matter how effective, a UV clarifier will have a difficult time controlling algae if the conditions that encourage aggressive algae growth are not addressed as well. Maximize the efficiency of your UV clarifier by minimizing the two main factors that influence aggressive algae growth - excess nutrients and too much light.

## Excess Nutrients

Maintain a low level of algal nutrients such as [phosphate](#) and nitrogenous materials. Avoid overstocking by having no more than 1 inch of [fish](#) per 10 gallons of water and [feed](#) only as much as your fish can finish in a few minutes. Clean mechanical filter media on a weekly basis before organic material has had a chance to decompose and release algae-fueling nutrients.

## Too Much Light

If your water garden receives more than 6 hours of direct sunlight, consider providing shade with plants. They also help slow the growth of algae by competing for algal nutrients. If you are using plants as part of an algae control regimen, be sure that approximately half of your water garden is shaded.

For stubborn cases, consider taking a multiple approach using [Barley Straw](#) products or plant-safe [algaecides](#) in conjunction with UV clarifiers. Addressing the cause of nuisance algae and taking prompt preventive action makes UV clarifiers a worthwhile investment.

### We recommend:

- [Turbo Twist Pond UV Clarifier](#) clarifies ponds economically without harsh chemicals.
- [API POND ALGAEFIX®](#) is a great way to keep algae under control without harming your plants.
- [Microbe-Lift Barley Straw Pellets+](#) are easy to apply and work year-round to reduce the negative effects of phosphate.