

Achieving Healthy and Safe Outcomes in Floatation

USER PROFILE

Low contamination potential:

- Significantly lower (factor of 10-100) bather loads than pools & spas.
- Float settings have higher likelihood of showering before entering.

Increased accountability of user:

- Users pay \$50 or more to float; less likely to intentionally contaminate something of value.
- Users are given 1:1 health and safety instruction by staff.
- Users are typically older / more mature compared to pool and spa users.

Protection from colonization and infection of floater:

- Patrons do not ingest water so fecal /oral route is eliminated.
- Cuts are covered.
- No submersion of the head means no eye & nose contact.

SANITATION PROFILE

No pathogen growth:

- Salt creates an inhospitable environment for potential pathogens. Studies* (NSF) show that organisms do not *grow* in salt water. This, along with paltry bather load, may eliminate need for residual halogen disinfectants.

Inherent features of floating:

- Insignificant chance of transference of skin organisms among floaters*
- Users must shower after floating to remove salt (and potential impurities) from the skin.

Ultraviolet radiation (UV):

- Demonstrated effectiveness in float tank settings.*
- Reacts with hydrogen peroxide to create hydroxyl radicals (powerful sanitizer).
- Requires appropriate wavelength and transmittance.

Ozone:

- Excellent disinfectant.
- Ensure adequate air quality.

Hydrogen peroxide:

- Works as an oxidizer (or water conditioner) to remove organic matter that germs need to survive.
- Not a sanitizer or disinfectant.

MAINTENANCE PROFILE

Routine microbiological sampling:

- Most effective way to determine safety of the water.
- Tells the only true story of the effectiveness of water sanitation approaches.

Cleaning & Maintenance:

- Consistent review of performance and condition of filter, UV lamp, basin and chemical residuals are required.
- Visual inspection of basin required after every float.
- Appropriate responses are required for rare contamination events.

Turnovers:

- Cycling water through filter 3-4 times passes 95-98% of water through the filter and UV lamp.
- Manual skimming of tank may be required after circulation cycle if visible debris remains.

Environmental Controls:

- Floating is always indoors.
- Common areas are separated from floating areas.
- Very low water volume (200-500 Gal) means water is easier to treat & filter.

Safe Outcome

* Studies available from Floatation Tank Association