Filter Glass FAQs

What is filter glass?

- Filter glass is the material placed between a high pressure tanning lamp and the tanner.
- Filter glass reduces the visible light emitted from high-pressure lamps by absorbing certain rays of UV light.
- Filter glass also filters out certain rays of ultraviolet light.
    - UVC is filtered out, as this portion of the UV spectrum is used for germicidal and medical purposes.
    - UVB, in varying levels, is filtered out as well. The amount of UVB that is filtered out varies.
        - The equipment manufacturer can choose from several different grades of filter glass to give the end UVA/UVB ratio they desire.
        - The UVB that is transmitted promotes the stimulation of melanin in the lower skin layers.
    - UVA, at certain wavelengths, is also filtered out on a small level, although the majority of it is passed through.

What are the different types of filter glass?

- Depending on the end result intended by the equipment manufacturer, different types of filter glass are used.
- The color of filter glass varies from clear and light green to various shades of deep blue and purple.
- Typical filters used in the tanning industry are called M-UG2, M-UG4, M-UG6, ME-122, etc.
- Each type of filter glass varies by color, UV transmission, and absorption rate.
- Coated filter glasses, such as mirrored, are now sometimes used to effectively produce faster tans with lower wattages.

How should the filter glass be cleaned?

- Always follow cleaning instructions in the equipment's owner's manual.
- Unless otherwise specified in the owner's manual, a mild solution of acrylic cleaner should be sufficient.
- Periodically remove filter glass from unit and clean on the inside to remove any built-up dust or debris. Be careful not to break or scratch the glass.

When should filter glass be replaced?

- Refer to the equipment owner's manual for specific replacement instructions.
- Otherwise, replace filter glass when they are broken, cracked, scratched, or otherwise damaged.