

Bubble Column- Maintenance

Safety & Maintenance Issues

The Bubble Columns are made of Acrylic (plastic) tube. They are very strong, but will not stand up to extreme bumps. Mobile students/clients should not be left unsupervised if they are likely to “aggressively explore” the columns.

Cleaning

The Column should be cleaned with a soft cloth and a plastic safe cleaner. (Mr. Sheen or similar products have the added advantage of being antistatic, which helps repel dust.) Do not use paper towels as these are abrasive, and will scratch the plastic.

Sterilising

The water in the bubble column must be regularly sterilised to stop any bacterial or algal growths. Sterilising tablets containing chlorine (Milton tablets or similar) can be used to sterilise the water. Chlorine tablets can be obtained from chemists. Add the tablets then leave the column turned off for at least 12 hours, typically over night or even better, over the weekend. Running the bubbles after sterilisation should be avoided as it will speed up the evaporation of the chlorine and reduce its effectiveness. If the water has become cloudy due to biological growth such as algae, a more stringent sterilising regimen should be adopted. This will usually involve the adding of chlorine in higher doses or adding chlorine more frequently.

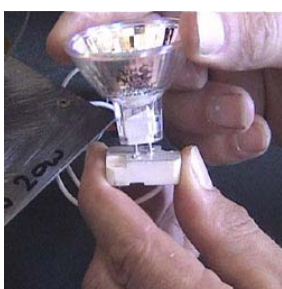
Emptying & Refilling

Should the inside of the bubble column become stained due to long periods of inadequate sterilisation: Initially attempt to kill the growth with a large dose of chlorine. Then empty, clean and refill the bubble column with clean water. Remove the cap from the top of the column and use a garden hose to syphon the water out of the column. In some cases a small water pump (available from most hardware stores) may be useful. Exercise caution when emptying and cleaning so as not to damage the column - particularly take care not to damage the fittings in the base of the column - see 'cleaning' notes above. Finally fill the column to about 40mm from the top then fit the cap.

Changing Globe

The front panel, at the base of the unit, can be removed, giving access to the lights and colour wheels. The lamp assembly can be slid forward a short distance, so the lamp can be reached.

The globe tray simply slides out. The globe fits tightly into the lamp connector, so it will be necessary to hold the connector steady while the globe is eased out.



A new globe can then be pressed back into place. **Only use 12 Volt 20 Watt** quartz halogen globes. **(DO NOT USE 50 WATT DOWNLIGHTS)**

Do not touch the inside of the globe as oil from fingers will burn on to the globe.

