

Ultraviolet Protection

Controlling light is an old issue with houses. Historically, builders went to great lengths to bring natural light and ventilation into a house, particularly prior to the advent of electric lighting. On the other hand, there becomes a need to protect the house and its contents from the sun's damaging ultraviolet (UV) rays—which causes degradation to fabrics, papers, paints, and plant materials. Shutters, awnings, and deep porches are a few of the architectural features used in the past to control light. Today these low-tech methods are still appropriate for some historic houses, but when these features were never present, one can take advantage of newer materials in various installations.

Basic Guidelines for Ultraviolet Protection

- Review and document the different environmental and physical parameters of the site with the collections team and measure the UV levels and determine there is a need for UV mitigation.
- Determine with the collections team the appropriate method to prevent or decrease damage from UV based on the UV measurements and the physical parameters.
- Install or otherwise implement appropriate system for UV mitigation.
- Regularly measure UV conditions to ensure approach is continually effective but also monitor the materials to ensure that material damage, either from the UV or as a result of the UV, is addressed.