



UVB FOR REPTILES

What is UVB?

UVB is part of the sun's natural light spectrum. Most reptiles require exposure to UVB to produce vitamin D3, which is essential in order for them to use the calcium from their diet. The sun provides UVB in nature, however, in your home you will need to provide UVB by using specialty lighting designed for reptiles.

What is the UV Index (UVI)?

The UV Index (UVI) is a measure of UV radiation. In this Index, the wavelengths measured are those that contribute most to a reptile's ability to manufacture their own vitamin D3. This is important because not all UVB wavelengths are equal in their ability to promote vitamin D synthesis.

What are Ferguson Zones?

Dr. Ferguson, a renowned herpetologist and researcher, observed the daytime activities of many different reptile species and recorded the UV Index they were found in. Over time and with the contributions of many other dedicated researchers, these observations and recordings have been used to create the "Ferguson Zones" we use today.

What Zones Should My Animal Have?

Every habitat should provide a photo gradient with zones that go all the way down to 0 UVI, which allows animals to photo-regulate, or control their exposure to UVB. The upper zone limit should be based on your animal's unique natural basking behavior.

How to use these charts:

1. Determine what zone best describes your pet.
2. Consider the size of your enclosure. These measurements should be taken from the face of the lamp to the basking site.
3. Choose a lamp that can provide the correct zone at your pet's basking site.
4. Remember to make sure that there is a gradient of light all the way down to "0" UVI allowing your pet to retreat.
5. Keep in mind that some reflectors may increase a lamp's output and screens may reduce the UVB that reaches your pet. To know precise UVI, you can use a UV Index Meter (ST-7).



DIGITAL UV INDEX RADIOMETER ITEM # ST-7

- Measures UVB and provides readings based on the UV Index.
- Quick reference scale on meter helps determine correct UVI level for various species.
- Meter's response curve is weighted to match the Vitamin D action spectrum.

With proper photoregulation setup, reptiles will have access to a variety of zones						
UVI	0 to 1		1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 6	>7
Zone	I	II	III	IV	DANGER	
ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN THIS ZONE	Shade/Partial Sun		Mostly Full Sun	Mid Day Baskers		
	0.4 to 0.7	0.7 to 1.0	1.0 to 2.6	2.6 to 3.5+		
	Crested Gecko	Anole	Iguana	Bearded Dragon		
Corn Snake	Eastern Box Turtle	Margined Tortoise	Uromastyx			
Leopard Gecko	Panther Chameleon	Painted Turtle	Haitian Curley Tail			
Dart Frog	Day Gecko					
BEST ZONE FOR WIDEST VARIETY OF REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS						

