

Protective Eyewear

Ultraviolet radiation may cause painful short or long-term eye injuries, such as photokeratitis, photoconjunctivitis and cancer of the eye.

Under the law, UV protective eyewear (such as goggles) must be worn during tanning sessions to protect the eyes.

Protective eyewear is a device worn by the user of tanning equipment to reduce the ultraviolet radiation reaching their eyes either directly or indirectly.

Tanning bed operators must require the use of protective eyewear for all clients. Only protective eyewear that was specifically designed for tanning bed use in federal regulations under the *Radiation Emitting Devices Act* is permitted.

Tanning operators must:

- provide protective eyewear to every person using tanning equipment
- explain to all tanning equipment users why they are being provided with protective eyewear
- instruct all individuals on the proper use of protective eyewear
- ensure the protective eyewear securely covers the user's eyes
- ensure an individual using their own protective eyewear is aware of the instructions for use

Protective eyewear must fit the client properly; it should be snug but not uncomfortable. Never allow the use of cracked, pitted or discoloured eyewear.

Each piece of tanning equipment must be accompanied by enough protective eyewear to equip the maximum number of persons who may, at the same time, be exposed to ultraviolet radiation from the tanning equipment.

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Multi-use Eyewear

The Middlesex-London Health Unit recommends that customers purchase their own personal protective eyewear equipment for their exclusive use.

If an operator is providing eyewear to customers, it is recommended they do so with single-use devices.

In the case where reusable protective eyewear is provided to clients by the tanning bed operator, the eyewear must be cleaned and disinfected between uses by following these steps:

1. Clean with soap and water then dry
2. Immerse in 70% isopropyl alcohol for 10 minutes then remove to allow to dry
3. Store in a covered container between uses

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding use and maintenance of protective eyewear.

As per Canada's *Radiation Emitting Devices Act*, protective eyewear must have a spectral transmittance that is

- (a) not more than 0.001 over the wavelength range from 200 nm to 320 nm;
- (b) not more than 0.01 over the wavelength range from 320 nm to 400 nm; and
- (c) sufficient over wavelengths greater than 400 nm to enable the user to read the labels and use the control specified in paragraph 9(a).

"Spectral transmittance" means the ratio of the spectral irradiance that is transmitted through protective eyewear to the spectral irradiance that is incident and normal to the surface of the eyewear.

