



SOLAR UV RADIATION THE FACTS

WARNING
UV RADIATION FROM THE SUN CAN ALSO CAUSE DAMAGE TO EYES & SUPPRESS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM

SOLAR ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION (UVR) IS A KNOWN CARCINOGEN, IT CANNOT BE SEEN OR FELT AND IS NOT RELATED TO TEMPERATURE. IT CAN PASS THROUGH CLOUD, BOUNCE OFF REFLECTIVE SURFACES & CAUSE SKIN CANCER.

But surely it won't happen to me?

Wrong. It doesn't matter whether you're young, middle-aged or old, skin cancer doesn't discriminate where age is concerned. The simple fact is that if you fail to protect your skin from UV radiation you're putting yourself at risk. If you allow your skin to become red and burn, this risk can dramatically increase.

There's also no avoiding the fact that skin cancer is on the increase and it's a killer. So, before you strip off and feel the warmth of the sun on your skin this summer, whether you're on an idyllic beach abroad or you're enjoying something as simple as a picnic or a bike ride in this country, ask yourself one question: Am I being sun safe or am I dying to get a tan?



THE SOLAR UV INDEX

WARNING
WHEN UV LEVELS REACH 3 OR ABOVE THEY CAN DAMAGE THE SKIN AND LEAD TO SKIN CANCER

- The UV index is a 5 category solar UV forecast
- The higher the number the stronger the UVR and the less time it takes damage to occur
- When the UV index is at 3 and above, sun protection measures should be taken



NO PROTECTION REQUIRED MODERATE TO HIGH UV LEVELS SUN PROTECTION REQUIRED EXTREME UV LEVELS EXTRA PROTECTION REQUIRED

To check the UV forecast any time for any location visit www.skcin.org

UV AND VITAMIN D - THE FACTS

"Despite the serious health risks, UV radiation, in small amounts is the most efficient way to boost our Vitamin D supply. However, just 15 to 20 minutes of unprotected sun exposure, without skin reddening or burning, per day is sufficient for most people to produce the required Vitamin D levels. Where appropriate levels can be increased by supplements or a diet containing vitamin D rich foods, e.g. fish, milk and egg yolks". Professor Andrew Wright, Consultant Dermatologist, Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

FIVE S's OF SUN SAFETY

WARNING
ALL SKIN TYPES CAN BE DAMAGED BY UV BUT THOSE WITH FAIRER SKIN NEED TO TAKE EXTRA CARE

SKCIN RECOMMEND FIVE SIMPLE STEPS TO SUN SAFETY:-
SLIP, SLOP, SLAP, SLIDE, SHADE

Remember it's not just sunbathing that puts you at risk, but being in the sun without adequate protection. If you regularly take part in outdoor hobbies or sports, or work outdoors you could be at greater risk. Make sure you use all of the 5 S's of sun safety and NEVER BURN!

1. SLIP on sun t-shirt
2. SLOP on SPF 30+ broad spectrum UVA sunscreen
3. SLAP on a broad brimmed hat
4. SLIDE on quality sunglasses
5. SHADE from the sun whenever possible



CHILDREN & BABIES

WARNING
CHILDREN CAN STILL BURN ON OVERCAST DAYS! NO CHILD SHOULD GET SUNBURNED - EVER!

ONE BLISTERING SUNBURN IN CHILDHOOD OR ADOLESCENCE MORE THAN DOUBLES A PERSON'S CHANCE OF DEVELOPING MELANOMA IN LATER LIFE. THE DAMAGE IS IRREPARABLE.

- Use a minimum SPF of 30+ (preferably SPF 50) sunscreen
- Ensure it is broad spectrum, ideally UVA rating 4 star plus
- Apply liberally, ensuring good coverage
- Don't forget shoulders, ears, nose, cheeks & feet
- Apply 20 minutes before children go outdoors
- Reapply at least every 2 hours
- Use a water resistant sunscreen on children over 3
- Reapply immediately after swimming / towelling
- Water resistant sunscreens should not be used on children under 3 years as they can overheat
- Keep toddlers and babies in the shade as much as possible, particularly when abroad
- Always keep shoulders covered!
- Use UV protective sun suits & broad-brimmed or legionnaire hats for added protection
- Don't forget school - lunch breaks are taken when UV penetration is strongest

