**News Release**

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**Seven Myths About Sunglasses That Could Damage Your Vision**

[INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] *and the American Academy of Ophthalmology debunk common myths, offer tips to promote smart eye health choices*

<INSERT CITY, STATE>– [INSERT DATE] — Did you know that too much sun on unprotected eyes increases the risk of eye disease? The good news is that prevention is simple: Wear sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of UVA and UVB radiation. But there are a lot of common myths about sunglasses and eye health. That’s why [INSERT ORGANIZATION NAME] and the American Academy of Ophthalmology is working to debunk the myths and offer tips to promote smart eye health choices.

* **Myth #1: Sunglasses are only for sunny days**  
  False. UV light gets through clouds and haze. Regardless of the season, sun exposure can increase the risk of developing [cataracts](https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/cataracts), [growths on the eye](https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/pinguecula-pterygium) and [cancer](https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/eye-cancer). Sun reflecting off ice and snow can also lead to [photokeratitis](https://www.aao.org/eye-health/diseases/photokeratitis-snow-blindness), a painful eye condition sometimes referred to as [snow blindness](https://www.aao.org/eye-health/tips-prevention/snow-blindness).
* **Myth #2: Babies and children don’t need to wear sunglasses**  
  False. Children are just as susceptible to the sun’s harmful rays as adults. Start them on healthy habits early.
* **Myth #3: Cheap sunglasses don’t offer protection**  
  False. Sunglasses don’t have to cost a lot of money to provide adequate eye protection. Less expensive pairs marked as 100 percent UV-blocking can be just as effective as more expensive options. Labels can sometimes be confusing. Some indicate sunglasses offer 100 percent protection from UVA/UVB radiation, others offer 100 percent UV 400 protection. Both block 100 percent of the sun’s harmful radiation.
* **Myth #4: Size doesn’t matter**  
  False. The more coverage sunglasses provide, the less sun damage inflicted on the eyes. Consider oversized sunglasses or wraparound-style glasses, which can help cut down on UV light entering the eye from the side. Wraparound glasses may also protect against dry eye due to the wind.
* **Myth #5: Polarized lenses offer more protection from the sun**  
  False. [Polarized lenses](https://www.aao.org/eye-health/glasses-contacts/polarized-lenses) do not block more radiation; however, they can cut down on glare reflecting off cars, water or pavement, which can make activities such as driving or boating more enjoyable.
* **Myth #6: Darker lenses offer more protection from the sun**  
  False. The darkness of the lens isn’t indicative of protection. Make sure the label on the lens says 100% UV-blocking.
* **Myth #7: Tinted lenses offer more protection from the sun**  
  False. Amber, green and grey lenses do not block more of the sun’s harmful rays. However, tinted lenses do offer increased contrast for those who play sports, making a softball or a golf ball easier to see.

[INSERT YOUR SPOKESPERSON’S QUOTE HERE]

“Your eyes need protection from the sun’s damaging ultraviolet rays just like your skin,” said Dianna Seldomridge, MD, clinical spokesperson for the American Academy of Ophthalmology. “Sunglasses are your prescription for eye health. They are effective, inexpensive, and provide protection year-round.”

For more information about eye health, visit the Academy’s EyeSmart [website](https://www.aao.org/eye-health).

**About the American Academy of Ophthalmology**

The American Academy of Ophthalmology is the world’s largest association of eye physicians and surgeons. A global community of 32,000 medical doctors, we protect sight and empower lives by setting the standards for ophthalmic education and advocating for our patients and the public. We innovate to advance our profession and to ensure the delivery of the highest-quality eye care. Our EyeSmart® program provides the public with the most trusted information about eye health. For more information, visit [aao.org](http://www.aao.org/).

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