



Not Hard to See the Value of a Tan

By Brenda Fishbaugh

Jim Bivens, Operator of The Islands tanning facility in Pinehurst, NC reminds his guests to wear eye protection with these words: “If you are blind, you can’t see your tan!” One day, a blind person walked into his salon seeking a tan. Bivens now provides his severely vision-impaired tanner with sessions in a voice-activated Sun Angel tanning system, so the guest’s tanning experience is as simple as possible.

Bivens doesn’t run the only salon that serves a sight-impaired tanner. Renee Flask, Manager at Paradise Tanning in Capitola, CA has a tanner who requires a cane and holds items up to her face to read the labels. Flask enjoys reading labels and instructions for her. Her guest can’t drive and uses the bus system to come to the salon. “She says she really likes warming up, taking a nap and getting a bit of a break,” Flask shares.

Michelle Norvell, Owner of Bare Necessities Tanning Salon and Day Spa in Graham, WA places her sight-impaired client’s hands on the tanning system controls to remind her where everything is when it’s been a while since her last session.

You may be surprised to learn that Amanda Campbell spray-tans a

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woman with poor vision every two weeks. At Skin City Spa and Tanning Studio in Belding, MI Campbell says she leads the sweet, middle-aged guest to the tanning room or spray-tan room and helps her get oriented. “I do still

require her to wear eye protection if she uses a tanning bed,” says Campbell.

Ellen Coston in Vancouver, WA echoes Campbell’s experience. “We have a blind client who uses both UV and spray-tanning with us at Ship Shape Tan and Spa,” Coston says. “I had to explain that she can’t allow her seeing-eye dog in the tanning room, as I don’t want her dog to lose his vision. So, her husband drives her to the salon and sits with her seeing-eye dog in the lobby. We love having her as our guest.”

Remember, your vision-impaired tanners should also wear eye protection. You may need to fold their disposable eyewear, or check that their goggles are in good condition if they are unable to do so.

Have an interesting salon guest or eye protection experience? Email Brenda@WinkEase.com and your story may appear in this column. ■



About the Author:

Tanning industry veteran Brenda Fishbaugh is president of Eye Pro, Inc., makers of disposable eyewear. She travels extensively training

salons on the effects of UV light on vision.

