

SALON OWNER *Confessions*

At a recent summer trade event, I met a couple of salon owners who told me they had once tanned without eye protection – and experienced disastrous results. Listen in while real salon owners “rat” on themselves...

Brad Todenhoft owns DJ’s Sun Shoppe 2 in Graham, WA. Recently, Brad handled a complaint from a tanner because a lamp in a high-pressure bed wasn’t lighting. Brad removed the filter glass from the lamp in question and re-seated it, then turned the bed on and off for a couple of seconds to test it. It seemed to work well. He tested a second time. Yep, it lit right up; the bulb must have been loose and now, the problem was solved.

In the middle of that night, Brad woke his wife and said he needed to go to the emergency room. He couldn’t see and his eyes were incredibly painful. Can you guess what happened?

[Can you *guess* what happened?]



“I’d never change lamps without wearing UV Blockers again!” says WA salon owner, Brad Todenhoft.

While Brad was fixing the high-pressure lamp, he removed the filter glass and thus overexposed his unprotected eyes to UV rays. His condition – known as “photokeratitis” or a corneal burn – is the No. 1 eye damage suffered by tanners. In Brad’s situation, just a couple seconds of exposure six hours earlier had resulted in a very severe case of “welder’s burn” or “snow blindness.” After a night’s stay in the hospital, Brad was sent home with antibiotic drops and numbing drops for the pain. He had to stay in a dark room with no lights for three days, and then wear sunglasses all day long for five days. Brad reports

that his eyeballs started peeling, and for two weeks, pieces of eye would be stuck in his eyelashes like gum. “Now, I wear UV Blockers every time I change lamps. I love that they are completely clear, but still block all UV rays,” Brad says. “They’re very inexpensive, and I’d never change lamps in my salon without them again!”

Another salon pro who stopped by my exhibit booth at the same trade show was **Lanna Goodwin**, owner of Sun Seekers in Oswego, NY. She told me that one of her best tanners hadn’t been in the salon for a while, and then Lanna ran into her around town one day. The client was wearing sunglasses, and Lanna said that when customer sheepishly removed the sunglasses, her eyes were swollen and weeping. The tanner explained that she had ulcers in both eyes, caused by tanning at Lanna’s salon without eye protection.

Lanna was horrified that one of her tanners had been tanning without eyewear! “Now, I am very vigilant and show every tanner the educational counter mat at my front desk,” she says. “It has gory photos of eyes damaged by unprotected UV tanning. I explain why clients must wear eye protection if they want to tan in my store. I don’t want another customer to injure themselves on my watch!” exclaims Lanna. ■

Thanks to Lanna & Brad for sharing their stories!

If you’d like to receive a free educational counter mat like the one Lanna uses, email Brenda@eyepro.net with your salon mailing address and “IST counter mat” in the subject line.



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.

