

SALONS DISAGREE: BYE, BYE GOGGLES?

A number of salon owners participated in a heated battle on the "Tan Talk" Message Board (tantalk.com) about whether it's better to provide tanning customers with eyewear for free, or sell it to them. The thread included a lot of name-calling and repetition, so I have edited and changed some online names.

TIGER:

Bye, bye goggles! After 3 years, I've finally decided that I will no longer furnish goggles. I will have goggles and disposables available for purchase, and they can buy disposables if they forget their goggles. I'm sick and tired of goggles walking out of here! It's also so much safer than using your own goggles, even though we thoroughly sanitize ours.

JAZZY:

We switched 2 months ago! I put out some educational materials on eye infections from sharing goggles. I compare it to sharing toothbrushes. We put up the notice a month before and even sold our used goggles to our tanners.

BRIGHT BEACH:

Would you lie in a tanning bed after it has been sanitized? GROSS!

SIZZLES:

If they are going to complain about goggles for \$2.50, then perhaps you don't need them as clients! I would never want to use someone else's eyewear even if it was "sanitized." GROSS!

I-M:

We stopped lending 2 years ago and now when they have no eyewear, I ask them, "Which ones would you like - this or this one? They are \$1 for one-time use (Canadian salon). Eyewear is a good moneymaker!

SIZZLES:

Leave it to Bright Beach to make a comparison where no one else would! Laying on a piece of acrylic is a lot different than covering your eyes with goggles that just came from a jar of 90% sanitizer solution and 10% gunk that came off the goggles after the last person! I have yet to see a sanitizer jar that wipes the goggles after each use. Have you seen a phone after someone else uses it? It's all wax and dead skin. For me, same thing with goggles.

BRIGHT BEACH:

Do you bring your dinnerware to restaurants? Your comb to the beauty salon?

SIZZLES:

You must be one of those 4% of salons that offers clients sanitized goggles to use. I would never burden myself with FREE goggle management.

BRIGHT BEACH:

We are in the service business! It's our business to manage the goggles and bed cleaning.

TIGER:

Did anyone see the gory eye photos in the *Island Sun Times*? The photos of genital warts on the eyes were enough to sway me!

BRIGHT BEACH:

4%? Where's the documentation for that one?

[Author's note: My professional opinion is that about half the salons in the U.S. provide goggles, and almost all Canadian salons do.]

SWEET TAN:

This topic has caused me to change my tagline to "Support bacterial! It's the only culture some people get!" :0)

TIGER:

I'm selling goggles to pay for my new Cadillac CTS!

GRANDSTAND:

Ya gotta love it! The great thing about free enterprise is that **you** are the entrepreneur and get to make the decisions on how you run your business! ■



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.

