

The issue

Sun protection is a recognised hazard in the workplace. Employers have a duty of care to protect their workers from over-exposure to UV while at work – this may include fitting vehicles with UV protective film.

Are you at risk?

These occupations are most at risk of over-exposure to UV due to the outdoor nature of their work:

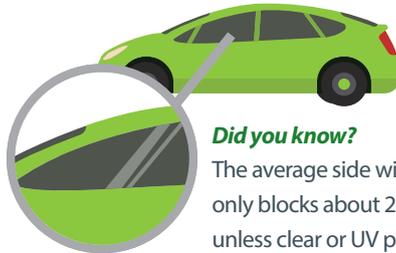
- farmers
- painters
- plumbers
- heavy vehicle drivers
- animal/horticultural
- handypersons
- electrical and communications workers
- automobile drivers
- construction workers
- engineers
- civil contractors
- warehousing
- miners
- carpenters
- vehicle trades
- emergency workers
- passenger transport
- machine operators
- scientists
- PE teachers and fitness instructors
- those who work around water - lifeguards, fishermen, marine workers
- outdoor council workers



Sun protection control measures for the workplace

Engineering controls: Reduce UV exposure by making a physical change to the work environment.

Tint vehicle windows



Did you know?

The average side window only blocks about 20% of UV unless clear or UV protective film is applied.

Provide shade for workers



Administrative controls: Reduce UV exposure by making changes in work procedures.

Plan outdoor work routines to early morning or late afternoon when UV levels are lower.



Check the SunSmart app for the UV level in your area.

Rotate staff or share outdoor tasks so the same person isn't outside for too long.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and clothing: Provide workers with work clothing covering as much skin as possible, acting as a barrier against UV.



Slip



Slop



Slap



Slide

Use a **combination of sun protection methods** for more effective protection against the sun and UV.

Skin cancer judgment: A wake-up call to industry

Eric Reeder, a retired truck driver, sued his employer for 35 years of damage, after he developed multiple skin cancers on his back, neck and shoulders from his work. This was the first court case in Victoria to establish skin cancer as a serious occupational injury.

15 August 2003 – SunSmart Cancer Council Victoria Media Release



Control measures: Tips for success



Involve workers in selecting suitable sun protective clothing and hats, sunglasses and sunscreen.



Ensure workers are aware of sun protection control measures available and emphasise importance of using in combination.



Be proactive throughout the year highlighting high UV days and why it matters to the organisation.



Make sunscreen easy to find and accessible for all workers and monitor its use.