



Position Statement

on

Indoor Tanning

**(Approved by the Board of Directors October 1998;
Amended by the Board of Directors February 7, 2004)**

The American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) opposes indoor tanning and supports a ban on the production and sale of indoor tanning equipment for non-medical purposes. The hazards of indoor tanning have been well documented from experimental sources as well as from epidemiologic studies and clinical observations.

With the rising incidence of melanoma and non-melanoma skin cancer in the United States, and the scientific evidence incriminating the use of tanning parlors as an additional risk factor for the development of these cancers as well as increasing usage of tanning parlors for cosmetic tanning by the public, the AADA encourages implementation of state and local legislation regulating tanning parlors. Further, the AADA encourages appropriate funding of the regulatory agencies responsible for enforcement of those regulations. Additionally, the AADA urges the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to take action that will ban the sale and use of tanning equipment for non-medical purposes. We encourage education of the public on the hazards of indoor tanning by schools, government, industry, and medical professionals.

Unless and until the FDA bans the sale and use of tanning equipment for non-medical purposes, the AADA supports the following requirements for indoor tanning facilities:

1. No minor should be permitted to use tanning devices.
2. A Surgeon General's warning should be placed on all tanning devices.
3. The warning label required of manufacturers for all tanning devices should read, "Ultraviolet radiation can cause skin cancer and other nonreversible forms of damage to the skin."
4. A warning sign listing instructions for correct use of the tanning device and potential hazards of incorrect use, which includes information regarding the recommended limits of weekly and yearly exposure dose and the recommended limit on the frequency of usage, should be conspicuously posted next to each tanning device.

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5. A warning statement defining the potential hazards and consequences of exposure to Ultraviolet A radiation (UVA), which includes information regarding the recommended limits of weekly and yearly exposure dose and the limit on the frequency of usage, should be signed by each patron.
6. All tanning devices should be inspected regularly for defects by a local or state public health department; written reports should be kept for each inspection.
7. Tanning device operators should receive adequate training to correctly operate the tanning facility and tanning devices, recognize injury or overexposure to Ultraviolet radiation, determine skin type of patrons, and implement emergency procedures in case of injury.
8. Tanning device operators should be required to provide sanitary, protective eyewear to each patron for use during tanning.
9. Tanning device operators should limit exposure time to the exposure time recommended by the device manufacturer on the tanning device or in the device operating manual.
10. No person or facility should advertise the use of any Ultraviolet A or Ultraviolet B tanning device using wording such as "safe," "safe tanning," "no harmful rays," "no adverse effect," or similar wording or concepts.