



2020 SUN SAFETY SURVEY RESULTS



COMBINED RESULTS OF THREE UV STUDIES

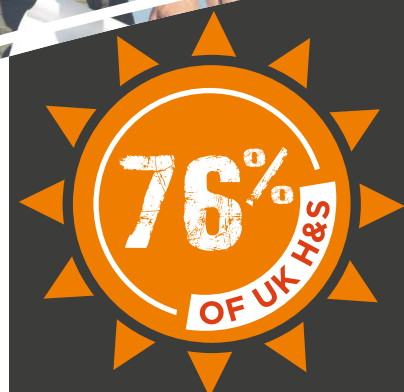
It is key that awareness is raised around the potential dangers of over-exposure to UV radiation, among both employees and health & safety professionals. **Building on studies conducted in 2017 and 2019 with outdoor workers, this year our UV study surveyed health & safety officials at UK companies, with 114 participating.** This four-year research project is intended to understand the gaps in awareness of UV dangers among outdoor workers, discover what employers are doing to help protect their workforce and the challenges they are facing, along with providing recommendations on best practice for employers in providing protective skin creams.

RESULTS FROM OUR 2020 SURVEY OF HEALTH & SAFETY PROFESSIONALS REVEAL POTENTIAL RISKS FOR EMPLOYEES

Despite growing awareness of the risk of unprotected UV exposure, our 2020 survey found that **76% of UK health & safety professionals were unaware of the danger, stating that they did not know that 1 death and 5 new cases of skin cancer per week in Britain could be attributed to occupational UV exposure¹.** In fact, skin cancer is the most common type of cancer in the world² and Britain sees **1,700 people** diagnosed every year as a direct cause of occupational sun exposure³.

DOES YOUR ORGANISATION PROVIDE UV PROTECTION FOR OUTDOOR WORKERS?

Among the key findings, **1 in 3** health & safety professionals stated that their organisation **did not provide any UV protection** to outdoor workers. Despite still leaving a third of the workforce vulnerable, outdoor workers themselves painted a starker picture: **2 in 3** said their organisation did not provide UV protection to them in the 2019 survey.



PROFESSIONALS
SURVEYED DID NOT KNOW THAT

1 DEATH AND 5 NEW CASES

OF SKIN CANCER PER WEEK
IN BRITAIN COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO

**OCCUPATIONAL
UV EXPOSURE⁴**

114 H&S PROFESSIONALS
SURVEYED IN **2020**

136 OUTDOOR WORKERS
SURVEYED IN **2019**

215 TRADESPEOPLE
SURVEYED IN **2017**

1 IN 3

H&S PROFESSIONALS
STATED THAT THEIR ORGANISATION

**DID NOT PROVIDE ANY
UV PROTECTION**
TO OUTDOOR WORKERS

2 IN 3

OUTDOOR WORKERS
STATED THAT THEIR ORGANISATION

**DID NOT PROVIDE ANY
UV PROTECTION**

1. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/077007/sun-exposure-work-could-lead-skin/>, 2017 2. <https://www.notimetolose.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/POL-2725-Solar-Posters-WEB.pdf> 3. <https://www.notimetolose.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/POL-2725-Solar-Posters-WEB.pdf> 4. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/news/077007/sun-exposure-work-could-lead-skin/>, 2017



WHAT IS THE HSE'S POSITION ON UV SAFEGUARDING?

Lack of provision may be due to the fact that **40% of these professionals claimed that employees provided their own UV protection.** This result was despite the Health & Safety at Work Act, which states that every employer has a legal duty to safeguard, as far as is reasonably practical, the health of their employees. According to Health & Safety Executive (HSE) guidelines, UV radiation should be considered an occupational hazard for those who work outdoors. Despite this, in their 2019 survey SC Johnson Professional discovered that **87% of non-wearers of sun cream stated that there was no UV protection product made available in their workplace.** Of those who did use sun cream however, **only 27%** were provided with product by their employer.



WHO'S AWARE OF THE DANGERS FROM UV?

When asked why they felt that a large number of employees did not use UV protection, **45% of health & safety professionals admitted that this was due to a lack of awareness amongst employees** around the dangers of UV exposure. However, it was concerning that **30% of health & safety professionals said that it was due to a general belief among employees that UV protection at work in the UK is unnecessary.**

For outdoor workers, around **2 in 3 were unaware that 1 death and 5 new cancers per week** could be attributed to occupational UV exposure in the UK, showing that awareness of the issue needs to be raised with both workers and health & safety professionals.

MORE STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE

Last year, **136** outdoor workers participated in our survey regarding their UV protection habits during the summer of 2018 (one of the hottest on record). It was found that only **1 in 4 wore protective sun cream whilst at work**, citing the effort involved as the main reason they did not use any. In contrast to this, **72% of respondents claimed that they would use protective sun cream whilst on holiday, but only 26% would wear sun cream on cloudy days;** demonstrating an awareness of the risks but the need for a shift in attitude when it came to protection at work.

In reviewing the 2020 data, it can be surmised that the larger the number of outdoor workers in a business, the larger the number of health & safety professionals who believe that the workforce is increasingly unaware of the dangers posed by UV radiation from the sun. This again suggests that much more still needs to be done across organisations to raise awareness of this issue.



TRAINING

In terms of training, SC Johnson Professional found that health & safety professionals recognised a potential gap in their knowledge yet felt unequipped to address it. 1 in 2 organisations surveyed carried out no training on when and how to use UV protection, and just 37% of them stated that they themselves had had the correct training to equip them to implement UV protection programmes.

Training emerged a key finding from the 2020 survey. Of those health & safety professionals with a majority of employees working outdoors, 1 in 3 said that they did not have enough information to brief workers on the dangers of UV exposure and 41% stated that they wanted clearer regulatory requirements to help them with this. 43% of professionals wanted better data and information on the risks posed by UV radiation in the UK.

Taking these insights on board, SC Johnson Professional have developed a suite of easy-to-use training resources, specifically designed for employees who work outdoors and for health & safety professionals to implement as part of a skin care training programme.

The training toolbox includes:



TOOLBOX TALKS

The THINK UV Toolbox Talk is a good tool to help awareness of the issues with workers around use of UV protection.



AWARENESS RESOURCES

A range of distributor and end-user support materials available upon request. These include a guide for outdoor workers, 5S approach and UV skin damage posters and UV personal issue cards with content about skin damage and skin cancers.



SOLUTIONS

The Deb Skin Care sun protection range has been designed specifically for professional use; available in systemised and personal-use formats, promoting the importance of sun safety.



[CLICK HERE to find out more about our products or to download training material](#)

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At SC Johnson Professional® we provide expert skin care, cleaning and hygiene solutions for industrial, institutional and healthcare users.

Our product range incorporates the Deb branded range of specialist occupational skin care products along with the well-known SC Johnson brands enhanced for professional use and innovative specialist professional cleaning and hygiene products.

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