

ULTRAVIOLET RAYS

The Invisible Construction Site Hazard

Construction workers around the world face many hazards while on the job, including an invisible one - the sun's ultraviolet rays. By taking extra precautions, workers can help protect themselves from harmful UV radiation damage.

UNITED STATES

Less than 22% of construction workers used sunscreen and less than 51% wore any protective clothing.

GERMANY

Skin cancer was the number one occupational disease in construction in 2020.

How can you protect yourself?

- Move into the shade wherever possible.
- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor of at least SPF 30.
- Wear a wide-brimmed hat.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt.
- Wear long pants or other clothing that reaches the ankles.

AUSTRALIA

Only 8% of workers who spent 4+ hours a day outside used appropriate sun protection in 2019.

UNITED KINGDOM

In 2017, construction workers diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer had the highest number of deaths (4 in 10).

Sources:

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/17480-outdoor-workers-and-skin-cancer>

<https://cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/reduce-your-risk/be-safe-at-work/sun-and-uv>

<https://www.cancer.ie/about-us/news/one-in-four-skin-cancer-deaths-are-from-the-construction-and-farming-sector>

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