



Australian  
Competition &  
Consumer  
Commission

**SAFETY ALERT**

# Novelty contact lenses



## Remember

- ! The misuse of non-prescription contact lenses can cause eye harm ranging from mild infection to blindness.
- ! Non-prescribed contact lenses do not have any therapeutic or medical benefit and therefore are not regulated under the Therapeutic Goods Administration regime.

## For further information

ACCC Infocentre on 1300 302 502  
[www.accc.gov.au](http://www.accc.gov.au)

**Important notice.** The information in this brochure is general in nature and may not be relevant to your specific circumstances. While the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has made every reasonable effort to provide current and accurate information, readers should be aware that the ACCC accepts no liability for any loss or damage whatsoever attributable to reliance upon any of that information. Nothing in this brochure should be taken to displace the need to seek professional advice. The ACCC recommends that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use.

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**can cause eye damage**





# SAFETY HAZARD

## Non-prescription contact lenses

Non-prescription contact lenses, also known as cosmetic contact lenses, novelty lenses, crazy lenses, fancy lenses or fashion lenses are becoming increasingly popular.

These lenses may create a fun new look, but you should be aware that the surface of the eye is extremely delicate and can easily be harmed by introducing a foreign body onto it.

Injuries resulting from the misuse of non-prescription contact lenses range from mild infection to permanent vision damage and blindness.

Infections and/or permanent loss of vision is likely to result if you share your lenses with others, don't take proper care when cleaning and storing them, or have a pre-existing condition that you are unaware of.

**Protect your eyes—follow the safety guidelines in this brochure.**

## Can non-prescription contact lenses damage my eyes?

Factors identified as increasing the potential for harm from non-prescribed contact lenses include:

- having a pre-existing ocular condition
- using contact lenses that are inappropriate for an individual's eyes
- failing to care and maintain the lenses hygienically
- using an inappropriate care solution
- failing to replace contact lenses according to the appropriate schedule
- swapping lenses between wearers
- leaving in the lenses for longer than recommended.

# SAFETY CHECKLIST

## Prevent eye damage

### Before you buy non-prescription contact lenses

- ✓ Have a professional eye examination to identify any pre-existing conditions that may increase the likelihood of non-prescription lenses damaging your eyes (some Australian states require a prescription from an optometrist or doctor to purchase these lenses).
- ✓ Have a professional training session on how to handle the lenses correctly.

### Protect your eyes

- ✓ Get regular professional eye examinations.
- ✓ Have your contact lenses professionally fitted.
- ✓ Follow care and maintenance instructions.
- ✓ Use the appropriate care solution for your lenses.

### Caution

- ✗ Do not share your contact lenses with others.
  - ✗ Do not keep the lenses in your eyes for too long (if unsure, ask your optometrist).
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