

2017 Total Solar Eclipse Safety Tips



Anyone in the United States on August 21, 2017, will be able to see at least a partial solar eclipse (weather permitting, of course). But only those people in what's known as the "path of totality" will see a total solar eclipse. For the August 21, 2017 eclipse, the path of totality is about 70 miles wide, and extends from Oregon to South Carolina. Depending on where observers are located, the sun may be completely obscured by the moon for up to 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

Eye Protection for Looking at the Sun

To view the sun directly (and safely), use "solar-viewing glasses" or "eclipse glasses" or "personal solar filters" (these are all names for the same thing), according to the safety recommendations from NASA. The "lenses" of solar-viewing glasses are made from special-purpose solar filters that are hundreds of thousands of times darker than regular sunglasses.

Do not view through any welding glass, if you do not know or cannot determine its shade number. Be advised that arc welders typically use glass with a shade much less than the necessary #14. A welding glass that permits you to see the landscape is not safe.

Don't look at the Sun directly! Use eclipse glasses...

Eclipse Glasses – YES!



Sunglasses – NO!



Eclipse glasses can be purchased at <http://www.rainbowsymphony.com/eclipse-glasses/>

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- Do not use a telescope to view the Total Solar Eclipse, It Will Damage Your Eyes & Telescope.
- Do not take pictures with a camera during the Total Solar Eclipse, It Will Damage Your Eyes.
- Dress for summer & hot-humid weather. Lightweight, light-colored clothing reflects heat and sunlight and helps your body maintain normal temperatures. Wear light-colored, loose-fitting, breathable clothing such as cotton, recommends OSHA.
- If you are going to be exposed to direct sunlight, it is recommended you use Sunscreen SPF-30 which blocks 97% uvb rays or even wear a hat to block the direct sunlight.
- Stay-Hydrated-Drink Water. Your body needs water to keep cool. Drink plenty of fluids, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- Maintain Situational Awareness at all times while viewing the Total Solar Eclipse. There will be a large mass of people in the Columbia area for this event. Your personal safety is #1.
- Watch out for an abundance of pedestrian/vehicular traffic in the Columbia surrounding area for this event.