

# Moak

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for safe viewing:

» **Inspect your viewer.** If your eclipse viewing device is more than a couple of years old, or if it's scratched or damaged, don't use it.

» **Avoid devices that concentrate the sun's rays.** Looking at the eclipse through a camera lens, binoculars, telescopes or other optical device can be dangerous because they concentrate the sun's rays onto a narrow point, potentially damaging your eyes.

» **Don't assume your sunglasses will protect you.** While most sunglasses do provide protection from UV rays in ordinary cases, they're not designed to handle the brightness of looking directly at the sun. Check to see if your sunglasses are marked with the ISO 12312-2 certification. If not, get some that are.

» **Buy from reputable vendors.** The American Astronomical Society has

published a list of vendors selling products that provide adequate protection at <https://eclipse.aas.org/resources/solar-filters>.

Some welding glasses are OK, but not all. NASA suggests, if you have access to a welder's glass with a No. 14 rating, it should be safe. But not all welding glass meets this standard, so if you're not sure it's No. 14 or better, don't try it. "Do not view through any welding glass if you do not know or cannot discern its shade number," NASA warns. "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."

And if you can't be outside during the eclipse, don't worry; another total event will occur in 2024 to our north and west, and if you're still around in 2045, mark your calendar for Aug. 12 of that year, when the path of totality will pass right over us in central Mississippi.

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