



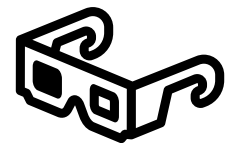
Stay Safe During the Solar Eclipse!

Eye safety, traffic safety, and crime prevention tips for the April 8 Total Solar Eclipse.

Ensuring safety during the eclipse is a collective effort that contributes to the overall well-being and enjoyment of the community during this unique event. Taking precautions to stay safe during the eclipse will allow you to relax and fully appreciate the rare celestial event without undue stress or worry. We've broke down our safety message to incorporate three categories relevant to the April 8 Total Solar Eclipse: eye safety, traffic safety, and crime prevention.

Eye Safety

- **Never stare directly at the sun, during an eclipse or otherwise.** You can damage your retina permanently without feeling any pain.
- **Use only ISO 12312-2-certified Eclipse glasses when viewing the eclipse.** There are many bootleg glasses on the market that aren't safe. The American Astronomical Society has a [list of reputable vendors](#) selling eclipse glasses that comply with the **ISO 12312-2 International Standard**. These meet the set requirements for eye protection. However, do not simply rely on merchandise labels; the ISO symbol or the name of a reputable supplier won't protect your eyesight the glasses are counterfeit. **Always identify the direct source of a seller's supplier.** Be wary of purchasing glasses from third-party websites like Amazon, eBay, and Temu.
- **Inspect your solar glasses beforehand.** Put them on in a room with the light on. Is everything completely blacked out? If not, **do not** use the glasses. Do not use if there are any scratches, holes, or tears.
- **Help and closely monitor children to ensure they're wearing solar eclipse glasses correctly.**
- **DO NOT look through telescopes, binoculars, and cameras without a solar filter made specially for those devices.** Wearing eclipse glasses when using these devices is **not sufficient**. Magnifying devices intensify solar rays and can damage the protective filter in your solar glasses, which in turn could irreparably damage your eyes. Wear solar eclipse glasses **AND** place a filter on the lenses of these devices.



- **The only way to guarantee eye safety is to not look at the sun directly.** Consider making a [pinhole projector](#) – an easy eclipse-viewing device made with common household items. It offers a safe way to view the eclipse.

Traffic Safety

In 2017, an estimated 21 million people traveled to view the solar eclipse. Road congestion was especially pronounced right after the event. The influx of traffic was especially hard on rural communities without the infrastructure to accommodate such volumes of traffic. Keeping these factors in mind, **here are some tips to stay safe while on the road before, during, and after the eclipse.**

- **On April 8, plan ahead and give yourself extra time during your morning and evening commutes.** Use [511NY Apps](#) (Apple and Android) to monitor traffic conditions. Try to minimize car travel in the hours leading up to and right after the eclipse. To minimize congestion, the NYS Department of Transportation is increasing maintenance staff and patrols and will suspend construction and temporary lane closures April 7 through April 9. Expect heavier traffic in the days just before and after the eclipse.
- **Fill your gas tank before April 8.** Expect overcrowded gas stations and depleted gas supplies before and after the eclipse.
- **Limit driving on the day of the eclipse.** Heavy traffic means a significant increase in fatal car crashes. Consider viewing the event from the safety of your own home.
- **Be extra aware of drivers and pedestrians during the eclipse.** Distracted drivers and pedestrians staring up at the sky are less likely to pay attention to their surroundings. Also look out for intoxicated drivers and be patient if you get stuck in a traffic jam.
- **Do NOT pull over to the side of the road to view the eclipse.**



Crime Prevention

Large crowds full of distracted civilians? Those are prime conditions for criminal opportunities. Avoid being the target of a crime during the eclipse. Here's how:

- **Stay aware of your surroundings.**
- **Travel and remain in a group;** look out for one another.
- **Keep your belongings secure.** Do not leave valuables unattended. Store wallets, keys, and electronic devices on your person always. (Consider using an anti-theft bag or pouch, also great for traveling, concerts, and other crowd-filled events!)
- **Lock your car and secure your home before leaving.**

- **Stay informed about local safety advisories and recommendations from local authorities.**

- **Refrain from uploading footage of the eclipse to social media or**

until you are at home on your own Wi-Fi. A major increase in cell phone can overwhelm cell tower infrastructure and cause a loss of coverage, which is dangerous for individuals in need of emergency services. Expect call service to be slow.



For a complete list of safety tips and other information regarding the April 8 solar eclipse, visit <https://www.townofpittsford.org/eclipse-2024>.

For more information, check out these links:

[Monroe County Total Solar Eclipse 2024](#)

[American Astronomical Society – How to View a Solar Eclipse Safely](#)

[NASA – Eclipse 101](#)

[Rochester Museum and Science Center – Eclipse Glasses Buying Locations in the Rochester area.](#)

