
All Live Eyewear OveRx sunglasses feature side shields of some sort. Some designs have a separate side shield, such as Cocoons and EyeArmor. Other styles have an integrated wrap-around side shield design that continues from the front lens to the peripheral of the frame. Why are the side shields important? What do they do? How do I know if the OveRx sunglass I am considering purchasing is fully functional? This article focuses solely on the purpose of, functionality and engineering of Cocoons side shields.

Let's Talk Side Shields

Cocoons OveRx sunglasses feature side shields that offer full protection and allow for improved peripheral vision. Without a well designed and expertly crafted side shield, the overall performance of an OveRx sunglass would be seriously compromised. Understanding the purposes and benefits of a side shield, in addition to the various designs and manufacturing techniques will go a long way in helping to evaluate any OveRx sunglass.

Let's start with why side shields are important and the various purposes provided.

If a pair of Cocoons did not have a side shield, the overall functionality, safety and performance would be severely compromised. As you are probably aware, the frame design of a pair of Cocoons completely prevents unfiltered light from reaching the eyes. The integrated peripheral frame work, coupled with the underside and brow bar of the frame are designed to make sure that no indirect, direct or reflected light can penetrate the frame. If this did not occur, the performance of the OveRx sunglass is diluted, as untreated light would be mixing with light that has been filtered through our proprietary Polaré lens system. Notice the word "system". We don't say lenses, as that usually infers the front lenses only. With Cocoons sunglass, side shields are an important component of the overall visual result. Our side shields are permanently injection molded directly in to the frame. This process is much more expensive than simply die stamping a side shield from sheets of tinted cellulose like many inferior products do. By injection molding each side shield specifically for each of the various Cocoons designs, we control the performance of the side shield. We precisely regulate the thickness, curvature and quality. The result is optically correct side shields, which are rarely found on any competitive OveRx sunglass. This means the side shields have no visible distortion. If you look directly through the side shields of most imitation OveRx sunglasses, you'll immediately notice that there are varying degrees of distortion. Cocoons sunglasses demand optically correct side shields. Why you may ask? The answer is simple; peripheral vision. If your peripheral vision is in anyway distorted or partially blocked by poorly designed side shields, there is greater risk of misinterpreting the position of objects in your peripheral. And if you think something is where it is not... accidents can occur. Especially when driving.

We also design Cocoons side shields to deliver a clear line of peripheral sight. Many OveRx sunglasses do not. The frame work around the side shield often impedes a clear line of sight. Without a clear line of peripheral sight, the person wearing the OveRx sunglass may not realize that something is happening in their peripheral until it is too late. Once again, this is especially important when operating a motor vehicle, boat, aircraft or heavy machinery. Cocoons side shields are actually one of the largest, if not the largest in the OveRx category. A side shield that is as large as possible, delivers the widest possible peripheral view.

The side shield also transmits light to the area behind the front lenses that precisely matches the properties of the light that as entered the frame through the front lenses. Different color lenses are designed to filter more or less light depending on what activities the sunglasses will be used for most frequently. A yellow lens for example, may transmit as much as 70 percent of light to the eye... whereas a dark gray lens may transmit as little as 12% of light to the eye. Usually, the darker the tint of a lens, the lower the transmission percentage is. This is especially important on an OveRx sunglass... as one of the best benefits of Cocoons is the relaxing effect on the eyes. If the light transmitted through the side shield did not match the percentage of light, and the exact same tint and color of the front lenses, the eyes would not be able to relax because they would be constantly adjusting to the mixed transmissions. However, if the light penetrating the side shield has exactly the same properties as the light penetrating the front lens... a tranquil environment is created that allows the eyes to stop having to continually adjust to varying light conditions. Usually, ten minutes after wearing a pair of Cocoons, most users notice the difference to conventional sunglasses. They feel more relaxed, eye strain and fatigue is significantly reduced and visual acuity is improved dramatically.

Cocoons side shields block out all harmful UV rays, but are not polarized. There is a misconception, fueled by the manufacturers of inferior OveRx eyewear, that polarized side shields are advantageous to the user. This is simply not true. For glare to be removed from your vision, you have to look through the lens at a very specific angle, with a variance tolerance of no more than five degrees. In other words, polarization only works if you're looking directly at the glare. If you are not looking at the glare, polarization is obviously of no benefit. The only people that would properly benefit from polarized side shields are those of us that have their eyes peculiarly positioned on the side of their face; much like a pigeon or goldfish! But to be honest; if you have eyes positioned on the side of your head, there are a lot more important things to worry about.

Lastly, side shields must be completely scratch resistant. If they scratch easily, hazing will occur. Thousands of minute scratches build up to create a veiled effect, deteriorating the side shields ability to deliver an optically correct peripheral line of sight. Lastly, make sure the side shields are permanently injected. Die stamped side shields will shrink over time as the material absorbs and expels moisture. Subsequently, the side shields tend to shrink over time, and usually begin to rattle as the lens is no longer tightly positioned within the side shield port. After rattling for a while... they tend to drop out completely! Without quality side shields, your over prescription sunglasses will not deliver the full protection and comfort that is necessary from an OveRx product.