Sight Matters
FAQ Sheets

# Anti-Reflection Lens Coating

Anti-reflection coatings use the technology that was originally developed for sensitive optical instruments and applies that to modern spectacle lenses. There are two main advantages to having this coating - a cosmetic one and a functional one:

## The Cosmetic Advantage

Spectacle wearers often wish that their glasses were invisible. Now, anti-refection coatings can almost make this wish a reality.

Amazingly thin layers on the lens surface reduce the reflections by 99%, thus making the lenses almost invisible and the wearers eyes therefore much easier to see.

*Appearance: Uncoated versus coated lenses*

When a person's eyes are easier to see this is a definite advantage for anyone who needs to make eye contact with people, or is often being photographed.

## The Functional Advantage

Apart from just looking better, there is a real practical advantage of anti-reflection coatings as well. The layers are thousands of times thinner than a hair and they stop almost all of the reflections that occur on the front and back of the lens.

This allows more light to reach the eyes; and more light means sharper clearer vision and improved safety for night driving. There is more light, but there are also less distracting reflections - for example, headlights shining through the rear windscreen won't be reflected in the driver's spectacles.

*Performance: Uncoated versus coated lenses*

The anti-reflection lenses also have advantages for computer work or when working under artificial lighting.

## Modern Options

Although anti-reflection coatings have been available for years, some of their performance and reliability have been disappointing. The modern options have some "all-in-one" advantages and are a significant improvement.

"All-in-one" means that they include anti-scratch, anti-reflection and easy clean protection on both sides of the lens. The anti-scratch component makes the lens almost as hard as glass. After the anti-reflection layers are added another thin film is used to fill in the microscopic bumps that can trap oil and dirt on the coating surface, thus making it easier to keep clean.

With so many advantages from the coating, it's a good idea to look after it. The best way to care for these lenses is with a microfibre cleaning cloth to wipe away any fingerprints or smudges. This is usually provided with every pair of Crizal lenses.

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