



[Authoritative facts](#) about the skin from the [New Zealand Dermatological Society Incorporated](#).

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Skin phototype

The classification of skin type known as the Fitzpatrick skin type (or phototype) depends on the amount of melanin pigment in the skin. This is determined by constitutional colour (white, brown or black skin) and the result of exposure to ultraviolet radiation (tanning). Pale or white skin burns easily and tans slowly and poorly: it needs more [protection against sun exposure](#). Darker skin burns less and tans more easily. It is also more prone to develop [postinflammatory pigmentation](#) after injury (brown marks).

Skin type	Typical Features	Tanning ability
I	Pale white skin, blue/hazel eyes, blond/red hair	Always burns, does not tan
II	Fair skin, blue eyes	Burns easily, tans poorly
III	Darker white skin	Tans after initial burn
IV	Light brown skin	Burns minimally, tans easily
V	Brown skin	Rarely burns, tans darkly easily
VI	Dark brown or black skin	Never burns, always tans darkly

Skin phototypes



Type 1



Type 3



Type 4

Related information

On DermNet NZ:

- [Skin pigmentation](#)
- [Sun protection](#)
- [Sunburn](#)

DermNet does not provide an on-line consultation service. If you have any concerns with your skin or its treatment, see a [dermatologist](#) for advice.

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