

Does it work? Testing a spray-on tan

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By Eileen Faxas / 11 News

HOUSTON -- Swimsuit and shorts season is here and so is the desire to look bronzed and beautiful. The 11 News Defenders puts a new sunless way to tan to a personal Does It Work test.

There are tans in a bottle, tans on a bed, there's tan makeup, which wipes off and there's always the original sun tan. But that's another bust with the dermatology crowd with the prospect of melanoma and basal cell carcinoma.

So how about a spray-on tan?

"I came out within seconds looking two or three shades darker."

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More people are getting bronzed in 60 seconds. And the mist-on machine is like a big phone booth.

Scott Hendrickson often has a waiting list to get into the thing at eclipse sunless tanning and says, "Most people do it naked, yes."

Uh, really. Everything can't tan. So you don the hair net and the barrier cream for the parts that absorb too much color.

Practice the poses and the machine starts spraying.

A quick towel-off and the transformation is made.

How does it work? A bronzer immediately darkens the skin, then an ingredient called DHA stimulates the skin to create more melanin, making you even darker the day after spraying.

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"It is a very safe chemical," said Dr. Debra Chernosky. She checked it out and said that it's all FDA approved.

And just like the real thing the 'tan' will fade, minus the sun damage.

It works! Looks real and it's great for those who gave up on tanning. It'll lasts for a week. But if you spray again before it fades you get even darker.

Online at:

http://www.khou.com/news/defenders/consumer/stories/khou030508_ds_DefendersDoesItWorkTan.36a20ceb.html