

Spray Tan Machine Essentials Explained by Aviva Labs

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Aviva Labs is providing an educational overview of the features, operating principles, and maintenance considerations associated with a spray tan machine. Professional sunless tanning equipment plays a central role in applying tanning solution evenly across the skin, yet equipment quality represents only one part of the overall process. Application technique, airflow control, solution compatibility, cleaning practices, and workspace preparation also influence consistency and client comfort.

A typical system includes a turbine or compressor, an applicator gun, a flexible hose, solution containers, and adjustable controls. The turbine produces airflow, while the applicator gun combines air with tanning solution to create a controlled mist. Fine atomization can support even coverage and reduce the likelihood of visible streaks, heavy patches, or excessive product buildup.

Several equipment formats are available. High-volume, low-pressure systems are commonly associated with professional spray tanning because lower pressure can produce a softer spray pattern with less overspray. Compressor-based systems may also be used, although operating characteristics can vary considerably. Equipment selection often depends on expected appointment volume, available workspace, portability needs, noise levels, and the amount of control required during application.

Applicator gun design deserves close attention. Needle size, nozzle shape, trigger response, solution flow settings, and spray-pattern adjustments can affect how the tanning solution reaches the skin. A well-adjusted gun should release a consistent mist rather than large droplets. Irregular spraying may indicate a loose component, dried solution near the nozzle, an incorrect setting, or a need for more thorough cleaning.

Airflow is another important factor. Excessive airflow can cause overspray and complicate solution management. Insufficient airflow can result in larger droplets or uneven distribution. Balanced airflow allows the technician to maintain a steady application pace while keeping the gun at an appropriate distance from the body.

Solution compatibility should also be reviewed before regular use. Different formulas may vary in viscosity,

drying speed, cosmetic bronzer content, and active tanning ingredients. A formula that performs well with one system may require adjustments when used with another. Manufacturer guidance can help identify suitable needle settings, airflow levels, and cleaning procedures.

In the middle of the application process, the spray tan machine must continue delivering a stable spray pattern as the technician moves across different areas of the body. Arms, legs, hands, feet, knees, elbows, and facial areas often require changes in distance, angle, or solution flow. Consistent movement helps prevent excessive concentration in areas where skin texture or dryness can affect color development.

Workspace setup can influence performance as much as equipment settings. Adequate ventilation, proper lighting, washable flooring, protective barriers, and an extraction unit can help manage airborne mist. Bright, even lighting makes application patterns easier to assess, while an organized station reduces interruptions during appointments.

Noise level may also be relevant, particularly in smaller studios, salons, mobile tanning environments, or home-based businesses. Turbine sound varies by model, and placement can affect how noticeable it is. Positioning equipment away from conversation areas may improve the overall environment without interfering with operation.

Portability represents another practical consideration. Mobile technicians may prioritize lightweight equipment, durable carrying cases, secure storage for solutions, and simple assembly. Studio-based technicians may place greater emphasis on long operating sessions, larger extraction systems, storage capacity, and easy access to replacement components.

Routine maintenance helps protect performance and reduce avoidable interruptions. Applicator guns should be flushed according to the manufacturer's directions after use. Nozzles, needles, solution passages, and container connections may require periodic inspection for dried residue. Harsh tools or aggressive cleaning methods can damage precision components, so approved cleaning supplies and gentle handling remain important.

Air filters also require attention. A clogged filter can restrict airflow, increase operating strain, and change spray consistency. Filter inspection schedules depend on appointment frequency, workspace conditions, and equipment design. Hoses should be checked for cracks, loose fittings, or internal buildup, while electrical cords should remain free from damage.

Troubleshooting usually begins with the simplest possible causes. Uneven mist may result from a blocked nozzle, incorrect flow adjustment, low solution levels, a poorly connected hose, or restricted airflow. Testing equipment with an approved cleaning solution can help separate equipment concerns from formula-related

issues. Continued performance problems may require inspection by the manufacturer or an experienced service provider.

Training remains essential regardless of system type. Proper technique includes controlling application speed, maintaining a consistent distance, carefully overlapping passes, and adjusting coverage for different body areas. Equipment familiarity can help technicians recognize subtle changes in sound, airflow, trigger response, or spray shape before a minor issue affects an appointment.

Aviva Labs notes that informed equipment care and disciplined application practices can contribute to more predictable sunless tanning results. Clear operating procedures, routine cleaning, appropriate ventilation, and ongoing training provide a practical foundation for salons, independent technicians, mobile professionals, and new businesses evaluating professional spray tanning equipment.

Professional equipment should ultimately be viewed as part of a broader service process rather than a stand-alone solution. Careful preparation, suitable formulas, proper technique, sanitation, maintenance, and realistic client guidance all contribute to a consistent experience. Understanding each element can make equipment decisions more practical and everyday operation easier to manage.

About Aviva Labs:

Aviva Labs is a biotech-rooted manufacturer specializing in sunless tanning solutions and professional education. The company develops science-based formulations for skin health, including oil- and alcohol-free products. The organization operates its own research and development lab and production facility to maintain quality and consistency. In addition to manufacturing, Aviva Labs provides professional certification and business training through its spray tanning academy to partners in over 110 countries.

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