

Top 10 Things to Know about Opticians:

Opticians, part of the vision health care team, play a vital role delivering eye care in Ontario and in protecting the public. The College of Opticians of Ontario (COO) offers these tips to help you be an informed consumer of vision care.

1. Opticians serve as public educators on eye care issues including disease prevention and detection.
2. Opticians are frequently the first point of contact for those seeking vision help. Opticians take pride in getting it right! Because you can't take a pair of glasses or contact lenses out for a test drive, you can count on your Licensed Optician to be the guardian of your best interests. Opticians don't just measure and design your eyeglasses and contact lenses, they have to ensure optimal vision.
3. As providers of care to an aging and diverse population, Opticians working collaboratively can help relieve health human resource pressure in the vision care system.
4. Opticians are Licensed, registered with the College of Opticians of Ontario (COO). This means that they are professionals who are regulated under the law and provide high standards of practice and ethics.
5. The College of Opticians of Ontario is responsible for maintaining the practice standards and skill proficiencies of Ontario's opticians through quality of care and education programs. Opticians are technically astute and highly skilled.
6. Your Licensed Optician has passed rigorous national examinations that reflect measureable international standards. Accuracy of your eyewear depends on strict tolerances. Standards of practice and continuing competence programs help ensure that Opticians are qualified to perform as authorized for their profession. Opticians work to exacting standards and precision.
7. The College of Opticians of Ontario ensures accountability on the performance and conduct of practitioners.
8. Opticians dispense ophthalmic eye wear to the public based on a prescription from an optometrist or physician, in some provinces, based on a sight test.
9. Ophthalmic eye wear includes eyeglasses, contact lenses and subnormal vision devices.
10. In addition to dispensing, Opticians refer people with complex eye conditions to other health care professionals, such as physicians. Opticians provide patient-specific advice. Opticians help patients identify the most appropriate type of eyewear to dispense based on a prescription from an optometrist or physician, taking into account individual circumstances such as a person's occupation or daily activities. There are approximately 2,400 Licensed Opticians in Ontario.

Protect **yourself** and **your** family

Choose only a qualified Licensed Optician; registered in good standing.

Protecting The Public. To learn more, visit:
www.coptont.org