

# Bucket Hats Are Back—Here Are the Best Looking Ones To Buy for 360-Degree Sun Protection



Saanya Ali · May 14, 2021



For years bucket hats have been dismissed for being “uncool.” They were the hats that your mom would tug over your ears before a middle school field trip or featured a chin strap and were emblematic of the classic fisherman’s get up. Lately, that couldn’t be further from the truth. Bucket hats have officially made the transition from dorky to “don’t think I can open Instagram without seeing at least ten.” While fashion it-girls like queen RiRi and Bella Hadid, may have resurrected the style made famous by ’90s street style icons and hip hop artists, the best part about bucket hats isn’t just that they are trendy. Since they have a wide, circular brim, they also serve some serious summer sun protection.

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According to Elizabeth Hale, MD, board-certified dermatologist at CompleteSkinMD and vice president of the Skin Cancer Foundation, it’s really important for people to recognize that, in addition to sunscreen, there are other steps that can be taken to protect from UV rays, like wearing hats and sunglasses when outdoors. “Hats provide an easy way to keep sun off your face, while also protecting your vulnerable scalp, which is a common area for skin cancer,” explains Dr. Hale.

Of course, wearing any kind of hat is better than not wearing a hat at all, but what makes bucket hats so great is that, unlike a baseball cap, they offer 360-degree protection. “In an ideal world, hats should shade your ears, the sides of your face, and the back of your neck, which are all very common areas for squamous cell carcinoma. The broader the brim, the better,” says Dr. Hale. When selecting the best bucket hat to sport this summer, the best options for optimal sun protection are ones that are light-colored to reflect sun rays so you don’t overheat, and have UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) of 50 or higher. Scroll down for the 7 best bucket hats to sport this summer for some serious sun protection.