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SECOND HAND SUNBEDS MAY GIVE YOU MORE THAN A WINTER TAN

Buying a second hand sunbed through the small ads may be a dangerous way of getting a winter tan.

A straw poll conducted by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) revealed seventy-five per cent of people advertising in classified adverts were selling sunbeds without the original instructions.

□These people are putting other people's health seriously at risk,□ said APIL president Frances McCarthy.

□As lawyers we are only too aware of the terrible injuries people can suffer if a sunbed isn't used properly,□ she said. □Horrendous burns, swelling of the skin and severe blistering are just a few of the symptoms.□

APIL says the results of the poll are alarming. □We have heard some absolute horror stories,□ said Frances. □We know of sunbeds which are up to ten years old being sold on with no instructions; one advertiser said she didn't have the instructions but the sunbed was made of pine so it was still a good bargain!

□One seller even offered to write his own version of the original instructions...it is little wonder we are extremely concerned for people's safety,□ she said.

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And people are being warned that they could face serious consequences if the sunbed they sell injures someone.

□Dealers who sell sunbeds without the instructions can face criminal prosecution - private sellers won't be prosecuted but if their sunbed injures someone they may face civil action and be sued for personal injury,□ said Frances.

□We would urge people not to buy second hand unless the instructions are available,□ said Frances. □Otherwise, getting a bargain could leave you paying a very high price for your tan.□

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