

false eyelashes

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False Eyelashes

Artificial lashes applied to the lash line — as a strip, in clusters, or bonded individually by a technician. The lashes themselves are inert; **almost every problem in this category comes from the adhesive or the removal**, which is why [Eyelash Adhesive](#) has a page of its own.

The three kinds

Type	Applied	Worn for	Applied by
Strip lashes	Adhesive along a band, above the natural lash line	One day	Yourself
Cluster / flare	Small groups glued between natural lashes	A few days	Yourself
Individual extensions	One synthetic lash bonded to one natural lash	2–4 weeks, with infills	A technician
Magnetic	Two strips clamping the natural lashes, or magnetic liner	One day	Yourself

Materials: synthetic (PBT plastic — the majority), silk (also synthetic, a trade description), and **mink**, which is animal hair and raises an obvious welfare question that "ethically brushed" claims do not resolve.

Extensions, and traction alopecia

Semi-permanent extensions are bonded to individual natural lashes with cyanoacrylate adhesive and last until the natural lash sheds. The documented risks are worth taking seriously:

- **Traction alopecia of the lashes.** A heavy extension on a fine natural lash pulls it out prematurely and, with repeated cycles, the follicle can stop producing. The sparse lashes people report after long-term extensions are usually this.
- **Allergic contact dermatitis** to cyanoacrylate, which builds with exposure and can appear after years of tolerating it.
- **Blepharitis and meibomian gland dysfunction** from impaired lid hygiene — extensions are hard to clean around, and debris accumulates at the lash root.
- **Demodex overgrowth** in poorly cleaned lash lines.
- **Chemical burns to the cornea** from adhesive in the eye, which is a genuine emergency.

None of these makes extensions unreasonable. They make **technician competence, proper lash cleansing and rest periods** the difference between a good outcome and a bad one. See [Eyelash Cleanser](#).

Strip lashes, done properly

1. **Measure and trim** to the eye, from the outer end. A strip wider than the lid lifts at the corner.
2. **Bend the band** back and forth to soften it so it follows the lid curve.
3. **Apply glue to the band, not the eye**, and **wait 30 seconds** until it goes tacky. Wet glue slides; tacky glue grips. This is the step everyone skips.
4. **Place above the natural lash line**, not on the waterline.
5. **Remove with an oil-based remover**, soaked and held. **Never pull a strip off dry** — that removes natural lashes with it.
6. **Clean the band** after each wear and store the lashes in their tray. They last ten or more wears.

Where it sits in the rules

The lashes themselves are an unusual case. In the US, false eyelashes are treated as **cosmetics** — FDA primary category **(03) eye makeup preparations** — and the **adhesive** is the regulated substance of interest. Colour additives, where lashes are tinted, must be approved for eye-area use.

Under MoCRA the **small-business exemption from registration and listing does not apply** to products that regularly contact the mucous membrane of the eye.

Lash extension application is a licensed activity in most US states, regulated by state cosmetology boards rather than by FDA, with training and sanitation requirements. That state-level licensing is the practical consumer protection here; FDA does not approve adhesives or technicians.

Shelf life

Reusable strips last **ten or more wears** if cleaned; discard when the band deforms or the lashes splay. **Do not share false lashes** — they carry skin flora and *Demodex* from lash line to lash line. Adhesive has its own short life once opened.

Stop at the first sign of eye irritation, redness or infection, remove everything, and see a clinician.

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- [Cosmetics](#) — what the label is legally allowed to say, and the full catalogue.
- The rest of *Eyes* — [Eyeshadow](#) · [Eyeshadow Primer](#) · [Eyeliner](#) · [Kohl and Kajal](#) · [Mascara](#) · [Lash Primer](#) · [Eyelash Adhesive](#) · [Eyelash Serum](#) · [Eye Makeup Remover](#) · [Eyelash Cleanser](#).
- Regulatory statements here follow the FDA and EU sources listed on [Cosmetics](#), read 16 August 2026.