

## Your Eye Care is Our Number One Concern

At TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers, we are committed to providing premier eye care service. Our state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment allows early diagnosis of common eye problems such as cataract, glaucoma, macular degeneration, and diabetic retinopathy, often before symptoms occur. Our board-certified ophthalmologists and optometrists use the newest technologies and treatments available in the United States today, allowing us to treat eye ailments safely and effectively.

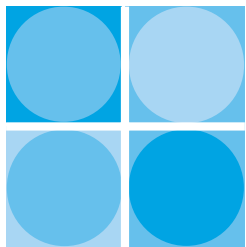
## Offering State-of-the-Art Eye Care to Our Patients

Vision is one of the most important of the five senses, and healthy eyes are necessary for good vision. Eye problems can occur at any age, but the chance for developing them increases as we age. Vision problems can affect a person's overall health, causing disability, stress, and a decreased quality of life.

Early detection of eye problems is vital for maintaining healthy eyes. Diagnosing an eye disease in its early stages minimizes its damage and greatly affects the success of treatment. Because many eye ailments have no symptoms until their advanced stages, regular and thorough eye exams with our affiliate network of optometrists are necessary throughout your lifetime to help maintain healthy eyes.

## We Make it Easy for You To Maintain Healthy Eyes

With several centers located throughout Michigan and Ohio, our patients enjoy easy access to quality eye care whenever and wherever they need it. Because TLC Eyecare and Laser Centers have doctors on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, our patients have immediate access to treatment for unforeseen eye injuries and accidents.



**877.TLC.TIME (877.852.8463)**  
**[www.tlceyecare.com](http://www.tlceyecare.com)**

*Locations Include:*  
Adrian, Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Bellevue,  
Big Rapids, Bowling Green, Bryan, Chelsea,  
Farmington Hills, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Lansing,  
Sandusky, Toledo



**TLC**  
EYECARE & LASER CENTERS

# Floaters and Flashes



**Take a  
Closer  
Look<sup>®</sup>**

**877.852.8463**

# Floaters and Flashes

## What are floaters?

Floaters are particles that float within the vitreous. Vitreous is the jelly-like fluid that fills the inside portion of your eyes. Floaters generally look like specks of different shapes and sizes or like cobwebs in your vision. They become visible when they fall within the line of sight and cast a shadow on the back of your eye. Floaters are usually harmless and are quite common for many people.

## What causes floaters?

One cause of floaters is the deterioration of the vitreous fluid. This is usually due to the natural aging process of your eye and is often not a serious problem. Also, certain eye diseases or injuries can cause floaters.

## The floaters which indicate a serious condition usually can be differentiated by some important factors:

- They occur suddenly
- They are accompanied by visual field defects including flashes of light and areas of vision loss (as if a dark curtain is placed in front of the eyes)
- They appear numerous or large
- They are associated with a trauma or a blow to the eyes or head
- They are increasing in number over a short period of time, often minutes or hours

These signs and symptoms are considered ocular emergencies and require immediate medical attention.

## What are flashes?

Occasionally flashes or streaks of light may appear. This may be happening because the vitreous is shrinking or pulling on the retina; this can result in part of the vitreous becoming

detached from the retina. The detachment may cause small tears or holes in the retina, left untreated, these tears or holes can cause a retinal detachment. This is a serious problem which can result in loss of vision. It is important to see your ophthalmologist immediately for a dilated eye exam.

## The possible causes of flashes are:

- Retinal tear or detachment
- Posterior Vitreous Detachment (common)
- Migraine Headache (common)
- Rapid Eye Movements (very common)
- Retinal Infections or Inflammations (rare)
- Central Nervous System Disorders (rare)

**If you have any sudden increase in flashes or floaters, see a curtain or veil in your vision, have a decrease or distortion in your vision, any flashing lights or visual disturbances that last for more than twenty to forty minutes, this should be considered an ocular emergency and requires immediate medical attention. Call your ophthalmologist immediately.**

If it is after office hours, call the office, and the answering service will get you in touch with the doctor on call.

