

DAILY NEWS

Safety & style in a spray can

BY NANCY DILLON

DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Pepper spray is ready for its closeup.

Pepper spray is ready for its closeup.

A new sleek pepper spray minicanister could become an unlikely must-have fashion accessory - alongside Gucci platforms, Motorola Razr phones and Apple iPods.

The mascara-size aluminum tube from Pepperface.com fits snugly in your back pocket. And even with its compact shape, the tube packs enough blistering spray to temporarily blind and choke an assailant for 30 to 45 minutes.

"Most pepper sprays are big and gaudy and look like little grenades. And they're sold on hunting sites alongside nun-chucks," said Pepperface.com founder Mladen Djankovic. "We're making it feel more feminine and designer."

The 1.8-ounce stunner, called the Pepperface.com Edition Palm Defender, will hit New York shelves for the first time tomorrow.

It will sell for \$35 exclusively at the New London Pharmacy on Eighth Ave. in Chelsea.

"We're a European-style apothecary, and the look of this thing is right up our alley," said New London co-owner Abby Fazio. "The one we used to carry was like a Chevrolet. I was afraid to touch it. This is like a Mercedes."

New York law requires that buyers be at least 18 with no felony or assault convictions and fill out a legal registration form with the purchaser's name, address, birth date and signature. State law also prevents refill canisters from being sold online. Customers have to buy them at an authorized store.

Pepperface.com sells the unit, which is manufactured by ASP, with a tester canister filled with water. This allows users to familiarize themselves with the aerosol dispenser before loading the scorching serum.