

Window Supply Company

Technical Information Sheet



Visual Quality Standard for Glass

Glass manufacturing

A glass manufacturing float line typically produces around 700 tonnes per day. The raw materials are mixed and melted down at high temperatures within a refractory lined furnace. The molten raw materials are then floated on a bath of tin and moved through the float line to create a continuous ribbon of glass. Most glass installed within buildings is manufactured from float glass in accordance with EN 572 - Glass in Building. In many installations the glass requires additional processing to provide the correct performance in terms of safety, security and energy requirements. Glass can then be coated to provide a specified level of solar control or thermal insulation, screen printed, coated with ceramic frit or the surface altered, to provide decoration or privacy.

All of these additional processes involve changes to the original float glass product and usually results in varying amounts of alteration in the visual quality and appearance of the products.

A totally flawless piece of glass is extremely rare. If you look close enough at any piece of glass you will almost certainly find a minor blemish. The question that has to be answered is - is the flaw or mark of such a nature that it spoils the appearance of the window?

Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF)

In an attempt to resolve what can be a contentious issue, the Glass and Glazing Federation (GGF) has devised the following test to enable both customers and glazing companies to examine the glass against an objective standard.



Recommended guidelines

1. Inside the house stand 3 metres back from the glass
2. The test must be carried out in daylight but not direct sunlight
3. The area which you are checking is the whole window with the exception of a 50mm (approximately 2 inch) wide band round the edge
4. The glass is considered to be acceptable if the following are not obvious nor bunched together
5. Totally enclosed seeds, blisters, hairlines or blobs, fine scratches not more than 25mm (approximately 1 inch) long and minute embedded particles

Important Notes:

1. Due to the way it is made, patterned glass is not governed by these guidelines.

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