

# GLASS INSPECTION

## UNDERSTANDING HOW TO PROPERLY ASSESS DEFECTS

Glass is meant to be looked through, not looked at. Anyone can find imperfections in glass if they look hard enough from a close distance, but that defect may actually be permissible. The standards by which defects are accepted or rejected are set by ASTM International (American Society for Testing & Materials), the standards cover a variety of glass issues.

Glass is used in both commercial and residential settings, customers set high expectations for products used in the construction industry. However, it's important to remember glass is not perfect, the larger the piece of glass, the less perfect it can be.

This is the accepted methodology for assessing glass defects:

1. Stand 10 feet away from the glass.
2. Face the glass straight on at 90 degrees.
3. View the glass in daylight, but not direct sunlight.
4. Inspect 80% of the central portion of the glass.
5. Inspection should not exceed viewing of more than the following in transmission or reflection:
  - a. 5 seconds for lites up to 6 sf.
  - b. 10 seconds for lites up to 35 sf.
  - c. 20 seconds for lites greater than 35 sf.

Under these conditions, if you cannot see the defect from 10 feet away, the ASTM standard states it is not a defect.

Defects include scratches, seeds, bubbles, debris, shells, chips, and spots.

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### IMPORTANT NOTE

Do NOT wear polarized lenses while doing a glass inspection.

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