



# CARE/CLEANING

## GLASS

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### GLASS CLEANING

Architectural glass products play a major role in the comfort of the living and working environment of today's homes and commercial office spaces. By providing natural daylight, views of the surroundings, thermal comfort and design aesthetics, glass usage and condition often affect our selection of where we live, work, shop, play and seek education.

Architectural glass products must be properly cleaned and protected during construction activities and as a part of routine maintenance in order to maintain visual and aesthetic clarity. Since glass products can be permanently damaged if improperly cleaned, glass producers and fabricators recommend strict compliance with the recommendations outlined in the Glass Association of North America (GANA) Informational Bulletin GANA 01-0300 – Proper Procedures for Cleaning Architectural Glass Products.

As dirt and residue appear interior and exterior glass surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned. Concrete or mortar slurry that runs down (or is splashed on) glass can be especially damaging and should be washed off as soon as possible. Before proceeding with cleaning determine what type of glass, surface treatments and/or films were used on the specific glass selected for your installation. It is imperative to know what type of glass is being cleaned as specific products may require specific cleaning techniques.

It is strongly recommended that window washers clean a small area or one window then stop and examine the surface for any damage to the glass and/or reflective coating. The ability to detect certain surface damage, i.e., light scratches can vary greatly with the lighting conditions. Direct sunlight is needed to properly evaluate a glass surface for damage. Scratches that are not easily seen with a dark or gray sky may be very noticeable when the sun is at a certain angle in the sky or when the sun is low in the sky.

The glass industry takes extreme care to avoid glass scratches by protecting all glass surfaces during glass manufacturing and fabrication as well as during all shipping and handling required to deliver the glass to the end user. A large percentage of damaged glass results from non-glass trades working near glass. This includes painters, spacklers, ironworkers, landscapers, carpenters and others who are part of the construction process. They may inadvertently lean tools against the glass, splash materials onto the glass and/or clean the glass incorrectly, any of which can permanently damage glass.

Consult the NGA/GANA web site at [www.glasswebsite.com](http://www.glasswebsite.com) for additional information on glass and glazing applications and links for additional technical resources.

**DISCLAIMER:** DESA Glass, Div. of DESA Holdings Ltd. ("DESA") has provided the above information as a general guideline for proper care of glass. DESA does not manufacture glass and/or glass products therefore disclaims all liability for damage to materials due to cleaning. If you have a specific question, regarding a product or cleaning method, please contact your DESA Sales Representative and they will assist with direct contact to the glass manufacturer/fabricator.