Glass glossary

- **Acrylic**
  A type of thermoplastic, sometimes used for glazing. Good weather resistance, shatter resistance and visual clarity.

- **Air Infiltration**
  The amount of air leaking in and out of a building through cracks in walls, windows and doors.

- **Air Pockets**
  Bubbles of air that form within a compound used to adhere/affix glass.

- **Annealed Glass**
  Standard float glass (see below).

- **Awning Window**
  Similar to a casement (see below) except the sash in most cases (see below) is hinged at the top and always projects out.

- **Back Putty**
  Small bead of glazing material between the glass and the sash, on the opposite side of the glass from the face glazing (see below).

- **Bay Window**
  An arrangement of three or more individual window units, attached in such a way as to project from the building at various angles.

- **Bead**
  Sealant or compound in a joint, a molding, or a stop (see below) used to hold glass or panels in position.

- **Bed or Bedding**
  The bead of a compound applied between a lite (plate) of glass or a panel and the sash or frame. Usually the first bead of compound to be applied when setting glass or panes.

- **Bite**
  Amount of overlap between the top of a stop (see below) and the inserted edge of a panel or lite of glass.

- **Block**
  A piece of lead, neoprene or other suitable material used to position the glass in the frame.

- **Blocking**
  To shim (see below), level and plumb windows/doors in required position.
• **Bow Window**
  A window with three or more units of equal width, which can be fixed, operable or mixed in any combination.

• **BTU**
  British Thermal Unit

• **Buttering**
  Applying a compound or sealant to the flat surface of glass before placing it into position.

• **Butyl**
  A synthetic rubber used as a sealant and architectural glazing tape.

• **Casement**
  A unit of glass, generally longer vertically than horizontally. It can either be opened to the outside (most common) or inside.

• **Caulking**
  The blocking of exterior air or moisture leaks by filling cracks around doors, windows, or anywhere else with a putty-like compound.

• **Cavity Wall**
  When an outer wall is fastened to an inner wall separated by an air space.

• **CFM**
  A unit for air flow referring to cubic feet per minute.

• **Clips**
  Wire spring devices to hold glass in a rabbetted (see below) sash without stops.

• **Compatibility**
  The ability of two or more materials to exist in close and permanent association for an indefinite period with no adverse effect of one on the other.

• **Conduction**
  Process of heat transfer through a material from a warm surface to a cool surface.

• **Convection**
  Heat transfer by the movement of fluid or air.

• **Convex Bead**
  Bead of compound with convex exposed surface.
- **CRF**
  Condensation Resistance Factor.

- **Curtain Wall**
  An exterior building wall which carries no roof or floor loads, made entirely or mostly of metal, or a combination of metal, glass and other surfacing materials supported by a metal framework.

- **Desiccant**
  A porous transparent substance that absorbs moisture from within sealed air space or an insulating glass unit.

- **Double Glazing**
  Two sheets of glass, separated by an air space. Double glazing improves insulation against heat transfer and/or sound transmission.

- **Double-Hung Window**
  A window consisting of two sashes of glass operating in the same rectangular frame. Both the upper and lower halves can be slid up and down. There is usually use a counter balance mechanism to hold the sash in place.

- **Dry Glazing**
  A method of securing glass in a frame without the use of a compound.

- **Elasticity**
  Ability to take up a certain degree of expansion and contraction.

- **EPDM**
  A weather-protection compound with good resistance to ultra-violet radiation.

- **Epoxy**
  A thermoplastic resin.

- **Exterior Glazed**
  Glass set from the exterior of the building.

- **Exterior Stop**
  The removable molding that holds the panel in place on the exterior side.

- **Fascia**
  Exterior perimeter of the roof just below the roof-line, perpendicular to the overhang.

- **Fixed Window**
  A window which is stationary, also known as a picture window.
- **Float Glass**
  High optical quality glass with parallel surfaces that retain the fire-finished brilliance of the finest sheet glass without polishing and grinding. Float is replacing plate glass.

- **Fogging**
  A warp on the inside surface of a sealed insulating glass unit. Caused by extremes of temperatures.

- **Gasket**
  A pre-formed shape of rubber or rubber-like composition used to fill and seal joints or openings.

- **Glazing**
  The work of installing glass in a frame.

- **Glazing Bead**
  A molding or stop around the inside of a frame to hold the glass in place.

- **Glazing Compound**
  A soft dough-like material used for filling and sealing the space between a pane of glass and its surrounding frame.

- **Head or Header**
  Upper horizontal component of the master frame of a window, patio door or entrance way.

- **Heat Gain**
  The transfer of heat from outside to inside.

- **Heat Loss**
  The transfer of heat from inside to outside.

- **Heat-Strengthened Glass**
  Glass which is reheated to just below melting point and then cooled. A compressed surface is formed which increases its strength.

- **Hermetically Sealed Unit**
  An insulated glass unit made up of two lites (panes) of glass which are separated by an aluminum spacer tube. The unit is completely sealed, creating a moisture-free, clean, dead-air space.

- **Hopper**
  Similar to casement window except the sash is hinged at the bottom.

- **Horizontal Slider**
A window in which the moveable panel slides horizontally.

- **Insulating Glass**
  Insulating glass refers to two pieces of glass spaced apart and hermetically sealed to form a single-glazed unit with an air space between.

- **Interior Glazed**
  Glass set from the interior of the building.

- **Jalousie Window**
  A window of horizontally mounted, louvered glass panels that abut tightly when closed and extend outward when cranked open.

- **Jambs**
  The two vertical members of the perimeter of the sash (see below).

- **Keeper**
  A device into which a latch hooks for security.

- **Kerf**
  A cut, notch, or groove in a material.

- **Laminated Glass**
  Two or more sheets with an inner layer of transparent plastic to which the glass adheres if broken. Used for overhead, safety glazing, and sound reduction.

- **Lite**
  Another term for a pane of window glass.

- **Louver**
  A window in which slats are so placed to block rain, sunlight or vision.

- **Mullion**
  A connector bridging two or more windows or patio doors together.

- **Outside Casing**
  Wooden exterior framing of the window.

- **Picture Window**
  The picture window is stationary and framed so that it is usually, but not always, longer horizontally than vertically to provide a panoramic view.
• **Plate Glass**
  Polished plate glass is a rolled, ground and polished product that offers excellent vision. It has less surface polish than sheet glass and is available in thickness varying from 1/4” to 1-1/4”. Now replaced by float glass (see above).

• **Prime Window**
  A window installed during initial construction, serving as an integral part of the structure.

• **PSF**
  Pounds per square foot.

• **Rabbet**
  A two-sided L-shaped recess in sash or frame to accommodate lites or panels.

• **Sash**
  The portion of a window which includes the glass and the framing sections directly attached to it.

• **Shear**
  Strain put on a compound between two surfaces when there is slippage.

• **Sheet Glass**
  A transparent, flat glass whose surface has a characteristic waviness being replaced by float glass (see above).

• **Shims**
  Small blocks of composition, neoprene, etc., placed under bottom edge of lite or panel to prevent it from settling down onto the bottom of frame and distorting the sealant.

• **Single Glazing**
  The use of single thickness of glass in a window or door (as opposed to sealed insulated glass which offers far superior insulating characteristics).

• **Single Hung**
  Similar in appearance to the double-hung window, the single-hung window features a stationary top and a movable bottom half.

• **Slider**
  A slider window may have one or two movable panes of glass. Whatever the type, the windows slide horizontally in the frame.
• **Spacers**
  Small blocks of composition, wood, rubber, etc., placed on each side of glass panels to center them in the channel of the frame.

• **Spandrel Glass**
  Heat-strengthened float glass (see above) with a colored ceramic coating on the surface. It has double the strength of annealed glass. It is available in a wide array of colors.

• **Stile**
  The upright vertical edges of a door, window or screen.

• **Stop**
  Either the stationary lip at the back of a rabbet (see above), or the removable molding at the front of the rabbet, which helps hold the glass panel in place.

• **Storm Windows**
  A second set of windows installed on the outside or inside of the prime windows to provide additional insulation.

• **Tempered Glass**
  When shattered it breaks into small, rounded pieces of glass, rather than sharp, irregular pieces. It is approximately 4 times stronger than standard annealed glass, and is used as safety glazing in patio doors, entrance doors, side lites (see above), and other hazardous locations.

• **Tilt Window**
  A single or double hung window whose operable sash (see above) can be tilted into the room, for easier washing.

• **Tinted Glass**
  A colored mineral admixture is incorporated in the glass. Tinting offers sun protection and better temperature control.

• **Trombe Wall**
  Glass covered concrete wall that collects and stores heat passively. Heat radiates back into the outdoors or into internal air or heating.

• **UBC**
  Uniform Building Code

• **Unit**
  Term normally used to refer to one single lite (see above) of insulating glass.
• **U-Value**
The measurement used in determining the ability of different structural components (such as windows) to conduct heat. U-values can tell you how well your windows will hold in your heated or cooled air. The lower the number, the better.

• **Vinyl Glazing**
Glass is held in place in vinyl channels.

• **Weep hole**
A small opening in a wall or window member through which water may drain to the building exterior.

• **Wet Glazing**
A method of sealing glass in a frame by using a knife or gun-applied glazing compound or sealant.

• **Window Wall**
A metal curtain wall (see above) in which windows are the most prominent element. Also refers to the smallest fixed lites (see above) used with wall systems.

• **Wire Glass**
Wire mesh is embedded within the glass so it won't shatter when broken and remains in the opening longer in the case of a fire. Frequently used in locations where a fire-rated glass is required.