

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.

- ***Weephole***

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.