



General Glass International

Specifications for Acid Etched Glass

May 2006

General

Acid Etched Glass is a float glass product whose surface has been permanently altered through the application of a hydrofluoric acid solution. The result is a translucent glass with a smooth and homogeneous surface. Acid Etched is available in a variety of thicknesses in both clear and tinted (colored) glass. It is available etched on one or both surfaces. 2 finishes are available – Matte and Satin.

Benefits

Similar in visual look as ground or sandblasted float glass. Sandblasting provides a relatively rough surface which tends to allow the retention of oil, dirt and dust particles. Acid etching provides a much finer surface than sandblasting. This minimizes substantially the amount of fingerprints picked up by the glass surface. This has great appeal because glass continues will look uniform long after sandblasted glass becomes stained, and its fine grained surface is easier to clean and maintain.

Design Considerations

Matte is more obscure than Satin and has a lower light transmittance. Both products offer a smooth and uniform surface. Both can be processed and fabricated.

Satin Etch is often referred to being a “no fingerprint” product. It is certainly much less prone to picking up oils such as fingerprints and staining due to its tighter grained surface. Therefore, we recommend the Satin Etch for applications where the etched surface will be exposed to contact on a regular basis.

Applications:

Acid Etched glass can be used in many applications including doors, furniture, insulated units, partitions, store fixtures, and shelving.

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Quality Standards

4.1.1.1 Class 1 clear glass
Quality – Q5 – glazing B

Technical Specifications

	5mm-3/16"	5mm-3/16"	10mm-3/8"	6mm-1/4"
	Matte	Satin Etch	Satin Etch	Low Iron Satin Etch
Light Transmission	41%	85%	84%	89%
Light Reflectance	--	8%	7%	8%
Total Solar En. Trans.	--	81%	78%	88%
UV Transmission	--	56%	45%	73%

Fabrication:

Acid Etched glass can generally be tempered, laminated, drilled, cut, notched, polished, and beveled in a similar fashion to regular float glass.

Care and Handling:

The finish is permanently etched into the glass surface and is quite durable. Generally, glass is etched on one surface only though it is possible to get product etched on both surfaces. Etch will not fade, deteriorate, or come off in regular use. Contact with sharp objects such as razor blades or glass chips may damage or scratch the etched surface. Soft gloves and a clean work environment are recommended when handling this product.

Glass must be stored in a dry environment. Trapped moisture can permanently stain the glass. When cutting the glass, it is best to score it on the non etched surface. Do not let cerium oxide or cutting oil residues dry on the glass or sit on the glass for extended periods such as overnight. This will cause staining. We recommend washing any such materials off as soon as possible. Clean with warm water and if necessary soap and always dry glass immediately.

Availability:

Matte Glass and Satin Etched Glass is marketed by General Glass International. Matte glass and Satin Etched is readily available through our national network of distributors and fabricators.

The above information is accurate as of the date of issue. It is subject to revision without notice.

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