
Glass - Safety Guidelines

Glass fitted in 'critical locations', in domestic buildings must be safe. Conventional float glass is not considered to be safety glass. See the table at the bottom of this page for examples of safety glass.

Doors

Any glazing or part of that glazing in a door, which is between the finished floor level and a height of 1500mm above the floor level, is in a 'critical location'.

Side Panels to Doors

Any glazing or part of that glazing, which is within 300mm of either side of a door edge and which is between the finished floor level and a height of 1500mm above the floor level, is in a 'critical location'.

Windows, partitions, and glass walls

Any glazing or part of that glazing, which is between the finished floor level and a height of 800mm above the floor level, is in a 'critical location'. (This includes any glass that can slide, tilt or move into the 'critical location')

DIAGRAM DEPICTING CRITICAL LOCATIONS

DIFFERENT TYPES OF GLASS CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS SAFETY GLASS:

- Toughened Glass (also called tempered) categorised as Class A
  - This looks like ordinary glass but receives a special heat treatment process to toughen it. It is much stronger than ordinary glass and on impact disintegrates into small granular pieces, which are not sharp, reducing the risk of injury.

- Laminated Glass available in Class A, B or C
  - Consists of two or more sheets of ordinary glass which are attached together by a plastic interlayer. The plastic layer provides a barrier and on impact any broken shards of glass will remain attached to the plastic reducing the risk of injury.

- Wired Glass (also called Pyroshield safety clear/textured) categorised as Class C
  - This glass has a network/mesh of wires embedded in it. Certain types of wired glass can satisfy the impact requirements for safety glass while giving a level of fire resistance.

- Plastics Glazing Sheet
  - Certain types of transparent plastic sheet can satisfy the impact requirements for safety glass. Please Note: Glass in doors and side panels may only be glazed in Class C materials where the smaller dimension is a maximum of 900mm. Where this dimension is greater than 900mm glazing categorised as Class A or B is required.

Only glazing units labeled A, D and H fall wholly outside the 'critical location' and need not comply with BS 6262: Part 4 - British Standard.

Any glazing within a red shaded area must comply with BS 6262: Part 4 Code of Practice for Glazing for Buildings.