



Guidelines for Successful Use of Spandrel Glass

Spandrel Glass is an architectural glass product designed for use in building spandrel areas, to mask building features, like floor slabs, columns, duct work, from view from the outside. Spandrel glass performs this function due to the application of a coating to render the glass near opaque. There are two coating options – ceramic frit or OPACI-COAT 300® silicone. We use OPACI-COAT 300.

Ceramic frit is a great choice for monumental high-volume four-sided structural glazed applications or smaller projects with “standard” colors. It’s as durable and compatible with adjacent materials as glass.

OPACI-COAT 300 is a great choice for the conventionally glazed or two-sided structural glazed projects that requires a fast lead time, or a standard or custom color. Fallout protection is easily achievable by applying a thicker level of the OPACI-COAT. The rubber-like OPACI-COAT 300 can be damaged by rough treatment (like cleaning with razor blades), but it is repairable. The compatibility and adhesion of silicone and glass is well understood. The coating is very durable, and carries a 10-year warranty against cracking or peeling. Adjacent materials should be evaluated for compatibility for all glazing systems, but especially important with light or pastel colored OPACI-COAT 300. Either silicone setting blocks and gaskets can be used, or we can apply a “bond breaker” tape around the perimeter of the coating to prevent potential bleeding of dark colored solvents into the edge of the coating over time. Insulation should be factory applied or, if field applied, held at least 1” from the glass surface.

- **ANY SPANDREL GLASS IS NOT SUITABLE FOR USE IN A “VISION AREA”.** If the glass is viewed from the building’s interior, looking outward toward day light, pinholes and variations in coating density will be perceptible. This condition is not considered a defect in spandrel glass. Aluminum panels are a better choice for applications requiring full opacity.
- **THE INTERIOR SURFACE OF ANY SPANDREL GLASS PRODUCT IS NOT SUITABLE FOR USE AS A FINISHED WALL.** Spandrel glass should be “backed up” with sheetrock or another suitable building material on the interior side.
- Spandrel glass is subject to inspection procedures of ASTM C 1048. For Spandrel glass that includes a reflective or Low-E coating, that coating is inspected according to ASTM C 1376.
- White, light, or pastel colored Spandrel glass may be translucent and allow “read-through” of materials behind the glass in the Spandrel cavity. A consistently colored back up material should be used behind white, light, or pastel colored Spandrel glass. A full size mock up of these materials is recommended, including the back up material.
- We apply white, light, or pastel colors at a thicker rate than dark colors. This procedure is prescribed in ICD’s Approved Factory Fabricator Manual. There is no need to request “double coating” for light colors. This process does not produce complete opacity or uniformity – it’s still not suitable for vision areas.
- The light colors may also have a slight variation in appearance when viewed from the outside due to variation in the color of the glass, the paint, and the application rate.



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- Spandrel glass must be **HEAT TREATED** to withstand high thermal stress. If the Spandrel is intended for an opening where safety glass is required by law or code or where human impact is a concern, the glass substrate should be TEMPERED. In other locations, the glass substrate should be ordered HEAT STRENGTHENED to avoid rare "spontaneous breakage" in tempered glass. Unless specified TEMPERED at time of order, glass will be supplied "HEAT STRENGTHENED".
- Spandrel glass will have **LOGOS** unless specified "NO LOGO" at time of order. The building code EXEMPTS tempered Spandrel glass from permanent safety glazing marking.
- All Spandrel glass orders are subject to a set-up charge for each order release.
- **FALL OUT PROTECTION** can be achieved with OPACI-COAT 300, if specified at time of order, by increasing the coating thickness. Additional cost applies.
- **COMPATIBILITY of adjacent building products should be confirmed with SGC or OPACI-COAT 300 manufacturer ICD. Neoprene gaskets or setting blocks must not be used directly against the silicone coated surface.** Syracuse Glass can apply a factory approved blocking tape to the perimeter of exposed OPACI-COAT 300, if requested, if compatibility is a concern. Silicone blocks and gaskets are compatible.
- In monolithic applications, OPACI-COAT 300 can be glazed on the #2 surface. In insulating glass applications, OPACI-COAT 300 can be fabricated on the #2 or #4 surface. Edge deletion is performed for #2 surface applications.
- OPACI-COAT 300 can be applied to any pyrolytic (not soft coat) reflective or Low-E coated surface.
- OPACI-COAT 300 is not recommended to be used on the #3 surface of an insulating glass unit, especially with a Low-E coating on the #2 surface. A haze or discoloration may occur.
- Contact Syracuse Glass for additional information regarding Structural Silicone Glazing. The OPACI-COAT coating can be structural glazed with ICD recommended silicone, or the coating can be edge deleted.
- The rubber-like OPACI-COAT 300 coating can be scratched with rough handling. Use of vacuum cups on the coating is not recommended. The coating is repairable in the field.
- Building Materials and Insulation must be held at least 1" away from OPACI-COAT 300 coating.
- Polyisocyanurate insulation is not compatible with OPACI-COAT 300.
- See www.syracuseglass.com for specification language and additional resources.