

## Technical Information Sheet 5

## Glass Processing & Decoration

### OVERVIEW - PROCESSING

The term 'processing' generally refers to an edge treatment being done to the glass to either remove the sharp edge for handling or to improve the edge appearance for aesthetic purposes. It can also refer to hole drilling where holes are drilled into the glass for fittings or sockets to come through. Common types of edgework are polishing, bevelling and arrising.

### POLISHING

This is the most common form of edgework done to glass and is used for aesthetic and handling purposes to remove the sharp edge and to also improve the edge appearance. There are several types of polished edge, however the most commonly used is the 'straight line edge' which is essentially a flat polish with a very slight chamfer to both faces. Also available are such polishes as half round, bull nose or flat, however these can only be done on specialised machinery and can also be very costly.

### BEVELLING

A bevelled edge is a decorative edge where the glass is chamfered at an angle to various widths. This is purely for decorative purposes and in some cases will make the very edge of the panel very thin. The minimum bevel width is 10mm with the maximum on 6mm thick glass being 50mm.

### ARRISED

This is only normally used for handling purposes as this is not a particularly handsome finish. Put simply the glass has the sharp edge removed very roughly with an abrasive belt or pad leaving the edge 'grey' but blunt. This type of edgework is standard on toughened glass where no other edgework is requested as it reduces failure rates during the toughening process.

### MITRED

A mitre is a functional edge finish which is used mainly on shopfront glass when two or more panels are to be butt jointed (joined without any framework) around a corner. The mitre is used to accommodate the corner angle allowing for the glass to go around straight angled corners from zero to 90 degrees

### EDGE PROFILES

Below are some drawings showing the above edge profiles for reference only :



Polished Edge



Bevelled Edge



Arrised Edge (Grey)



Mitred Edge

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## **OVERVIEW - DECORATION**

Decoration generally refers to a surface treatment that is done to the flat surface(s) of the glass panel which can serve several purposes. Normal surface decoration methods include sandblasting, acid etching or film application, however there are other more elaborate forms of decoration also available.

In most cases, such treatments are used to either obscure vision through the glass or to change to look or colour by design or tinting.

## **SANDBLASTING**

Sandblasting is a very aggressive process by which the glass is subjected to a blast of highly abrasive grit under pressure which has the effect of pitting the surface. This will change the surface appearance from smooth and clear to rough and opaque, and this type of decoration is generally used to obscure either all or part of a panel for privacy reasons. You can also have designs done in the sandblasted surface so that basic shapes, numbers and words can be incorporated into the panel for decorative purposes.

## **ACID ETCHING**

This is where a very aggressive acid is applied to the glass surface in order to remove the clear surface layer, and thus obscuring the glass leaving a smooth milky finish. This process can result in a slightly uneven surface finish which some people find pleasing, however this is an expensive process when compared to sandblasting.

## **FILM APPLICATION**

This is when a film is applied to one surface of the glass in order to change its appearance. Various types of film are available, including tinted, obscuring in various patterns and mirror effect. These films can be applied by anyone however they can be tricky and are normally applied after the glass is installed to ensure they do not get damaged during glazing or finishing works.

## **SPLASH BACKS**

Painted glass is now very commonly used as kitchen splashbacks as it is easy to clean and maintain. Glass can be painted to virtually any colour to match the colour scheme of the room and in some cases various paint effects such as pearlescent or metallic are available. N&C Glass offer a range of seven standard colours of back painted glass from stock in their London Glass range, details of which are available from any N&C Glass branch.

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