

## Clear Glass Color

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Clear glass is the staple of the industry and is often thought of as a generic or filler upon which other value added processes or products are combined. In most instances the slight greenish tint provided by the iron content is of no consequence. However in today's marketplace the increased use of laminated, coated and decorative glass demands closer attention to this aspect of glass for good color match and problem free installations.

"Nobody ever complains about color – they only complain about differences in color"

Many people do not realize or have not thought about clear glass color. Clear glass will differ in tint from each of the primary suppliers and will in fact differ from various float operations within single manufacturers. Some maintain greater color control than others but all will be progressively darker as thickness increases. When we introduce spandrel pigments or decorative interlayer's to the mix, the observer is now looking at a color, through a color.

The glass will have little impact when the coating or interlayer is dominant. Earth toned and dark opaque colors present to the exterior reliably and repetitively regardless of clear substrate manufacture since, as a percentage of influencing color, the glass is a very small part, and melds into the broad array of pigments. The lighter pastel colors, and especially white, which is essentially  $\text{TiO}_2$  and the absence of pigments, will not mask the slight tint in clear glass. The subtle variation in manufactured clear glass becomes obvious and influences the color distinguished by the viewer.

Practically the aforementioned reality is seldom seen in every day production of standard colors and small quantity of lighter colors, but may manifest itself when pastel colors are viewed in mixed production runs, varying thickness requirements, or as replacement glass reaches the job site. Often mislabeled as aspects of lighting, batch variation in paints, interlayer, or glass, the producer and customer are faced with product dissatisfaction and no firm solutions. Averting the issue clearly becomes the prudent choice for customer satisfaction and fewer claims.

Standardizing to a single reliable supplier for production of these products or up selling to low iron glass is the most desirable solution that maintains consistency in matching glass internally and in the field. The low iron option also offers the truest color rendition of pale colors, especially white's. Additionally, make sure the selected sample glass and color is identified for the production and purchasing team. This allows planning and acquisition of same lot material for larger jobs and consistency in the production process.