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FACT SHEET

How to view coated glass

When choosing architectural glazing for building projects, it's not always easy to get a clear picture of what the glass will actually look like once it's installed in the building facade. While samples are available to view, it is important that they be viewed properly under the right environmental conditions, otherwise what you see in a sample may not match the appearance of the glass once installed.

Here are some tips that will help you properly assess a glass sample and allow you to make informed decisions for your project.

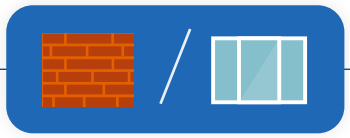
GUARDIAN GLASS

GUARDIAN GLASS

3 factors that can affect the appearance of coated glass

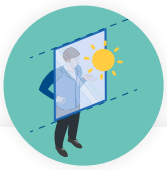
Viewing the glazed facade in cloudy or overcast weather conditions compared to bright, sunny conditions.

Viewing the glazed facade during the day vs. night time.



The type of interior behind the glazed facade, e.g. shading or blinds on the inside, the color of walls and furniture inside the room, whether the space behind the glass is a small room with cubicle walls or a deep open space.

Understand the different ways to evaluate a sample



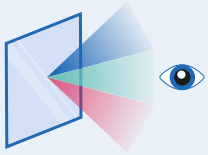
Internal View

External View

A coated glass sample has multiple surfaces whose appearance differs depending on the position of the coating on the sample. The **Internal View** corresponds to what you will see once the glass is part of the finished façade when viewed through the glass from the inside of the building.

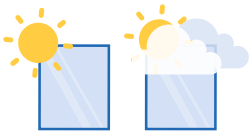
The **External View** corresponds to what you will see once the glass has been installed in the facade when looking at the glass from the exterior of the building.

In addition to the intrinsic color of the base float glass, the coating will also have an impact on the appearance of the glass in terms of its reflected or transmitted color.

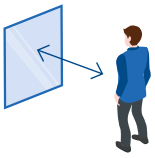


Assessing reflected color

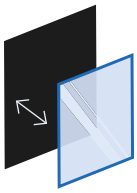
When looking at a building from the outside (External View), the appearance of the glazing during normal daytime conditions will usually be dominated by the reflected color.



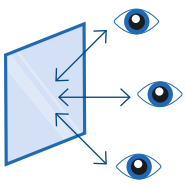
You should test the sample under different light conditions at different times of the day. If you can't do this, viewing on a slightly overcast day is best because it will be easier to see the color. In bright conditions, the reflection may overwhelm the ability to see the reflected color. However, it is always best to view a sample outdoors under natural lighting conditions.



When outdoors, it is best to view the glass from a distance of 10 feet (3 meters).



If you choose to view the sample indoors, the reflected color is best observed by using a black background for the sample. Try placing a sheet of black paper or other low gloss black material behind the glass. You can place the sample on the background material or better yet, tilt it towards a light source such as a window.



Look from different angles and concentrate on viewing from the #1 surface, that is looking at the surface you would see from outside. You can look at the #4 surface to see the reflected color from the inside but keep in mind that when installed, the reflected color from the inside will only be easily seen at night, under interior lighting conditions.