

Broken Glass Removal JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A glazing crew will remove damaged glass from a released ground-level storefront opening in an unoccupied work zone, secure the opening and collect fragments. This fictional learning example records planned controls; it supplies no actual inspections or work authorization.

- Glass type, damage pattern, retained support and removal method are assessed before anyone approaches.
- Both sides of the opening and the potential fragment area can be isolated.
- This excludes elevated glass, unstable structural framing and emergency work in an occupied public route.

Questions before work

- What retains the damaged pane and how will it be supported?
- How far can fragments reach on both sides of the opening?
- Which collection tools and containers avoid hand contact with shards?

Task Hazard Control

1 Assess from a protected position

Hazard: Cracked glass can release suddenly or conceal loose fragments.

Control: Glazing lead identifies the glass type, retained support and damage from outside the potential fall area. Obtain technical help when the removal method is uncertain.

Verification: Record the assessed support and planned removal sequence before approach.

Reasoning: Visible cracks do not establish how the pane will fail.

2 Isolate both sides

Hazard: Falling fragments can cut workers or people beyond the opening.

Control: Separate the opening and fragment area on both sides, coordinate adjacent access and prepare a stable temporary opening protection.

Verification: Lead confirms the boundary and protection materials before removal.

Reasoning: A one-sided boundary leaves a second exposure path.

3 Prepare support and collection

Hazard: Sharp material or unsuitable handling devices can injure the crew.

Control: Use support and removal tools suitable for the damaged pane; do not rely on suction equipment unless its instructions permit the actual condition. Select assessed cut, eye, face and body protection.

Verification: Lead checks the planned devices, protective equipment and puncture-resistant collection containers.

Reasoning: Damage may invalidate a normal glass-handling method.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Remove in the assessed sequence

Hazard: Releasing a retainer can cause uncontrolled glass movement.

Control: Follow the supported removal sequence from designated positions, keep hands out of fragment paths and maintain the boundary. Stop for unexpected movement or a loss of support.

Verification: Lead monitors support as each retainer or section is released.

Reasoning: Every release changes what holds the remaining glass.

5 Collect fragments without hand sorting

Hazard: Shards can puncture gloves or cut workers through unsuitable bags.

Control: Use appropriate collection tools and rigid or otherwise suitable identified containers. Keep sharp waste separated and use the site disposal method; never compact shards by hand.

Verification: Crew checks surfaces, frame channels and waste containment from safe positions.

Reasoning: Protection must cover small fragments as well as the main pane.

6 Secure and hand over the opening

Hazard: Remaining shards or an open frame can expose occupants and later crews.

Control: Install the required temporary protection, identify remaining glass and frame defects, and maintain access restrictions until the designated release.

Verification: Lead checks both sides and communicates the opening status.

Reasoning: Removal is incomplete until the opening and waste are controlled.

Pause and reassess

- Support or glass type is uncertain.
- Cracks, movement or retained fragments change unexpectedly.
- The boundary, removal support or waste containers are unsuitable.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Be careful around the equipment.

More useful: Use support and removal tools suitable for the damaged pane; do not rely on suction equipment unless its instructions permit the actual condition. Select assessed cut, eye, face and body protection.

Needs improvement: Check the area before starting.

More useful: Glazing lead identifies the glass type, retained support and damage from outside the potential fall area. Obtain technical help when the removal method is uncertain.

Decisions that change the analysis

Do cut-resistant gloves make hand pickup acceptable?

No. Gloves have task-specific limits and cannot make every sharp edge safe. Use collection tools and suitable containers to reduce direct contact.

What must be recorded before this example is used on a job?

Replace the scenario with the actual work, identify additional hazards with the crew, and record the applicable instructions, responsible people, inspection findings, unresolved actions and required authorization. A planned verification is not an inspection result.

Training needs

- Damaged-glass support and removal sequence.
- Fragment collection, container handling and bleeding-response readiness.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.300 Hand and power tools

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.300>

OSHA 1926.21 Safety training and education

<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.21>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.