

Mortar Set Glass Block Partition JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A masonry crew will install a small non-load-bearing interior glass-block partition on a released ground-floor base in a closed work bay. Factory-sized units are set in the specified mortar system with its approved perimeter accommodation, reinforcement and retention details. This fictional learning example describes planned controls; it records no actual inspection or work authorization.

- The opening, unit series, panel dimensions and supporting frame are released for the selected mortar installation system.
- Mortar is supplied from a separately controlled mixing station and all work remains reachable from the floor or a suitable protected low work platform.
- This excludes cutting glass blocks, mortarless systems, overhead glazing, structural glass walls and any unverified fire-resistance claim.

Questions before work

- Which instructions and panel limits apply to the actual glass-block series and mortar system?
- Where do perimeter accommodation, reinforcing and retention differ from ordinary mortar joints?
- How will the unfinished panel remain protected until the specified curing and acceptance stage?

Task Hazard Control

1 Release the panel opening

Hazard: An unsuitable support or mismatched system can cause panel movement or breakage.

Control: Masonry lead verifies the base and perimeter frame, actual block series and approved panel detail. Check that the selected mortar, reinforcement and retention components belong to that system; hold work for unknown limits or conflicting supports.

Verification: Lead compares product identification and opening geometry with current instructions.

Reasoning: A glass-block partition is an assembly rather than a stack of interchangeable units.

2 Handle and inspect the units

Hazard: Chipped edges, an unstable stack or a dropped block can cut hands and feet.

Control: Stage secured packages within easy reach and inspect units before handling. Remove damaged blocks, use planned assistance for packages and assessed hand and eye protection, and keep both sides of the work bay closed to unrelated people.

Verification: Material lead checks units, staging and the separation boundary.

Reasoning: Factory-sized units remove cutting here but do not remove handling hazards.

3 Set the base course

Hazard: Wet mortar can burn skin and an unrestrained first course can shift.

Control: Apply the specified base treatment and mortar from stable access using suitable tools. Set identified units and spacers under the system instructions, maintain supported alignment and keep mortar off skin. Do not improvise packing to compensate for an unreleased base.

Verification: Masonry lead verifies the first course before the panel rises.

Reasoning: The initial course establishes support and geometry for the whole panel.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Build with reinforcing and retention

Hazard: Omitted or misplaced reinforcement and sharp metal ends can weaken the unfinished panel or injure hands.

Control: Install the approved reinforcing and perimeter anchors in their prescribed locations without metal-to-glass contact. Embed components as specified and verify each concealed stage before continuing; keep hands clear of sharp ends and maintain temporary support if required.

Verification: Lead checks component type, embedment and retention at the planned hold points.

Reasoning: A neat joint does not reveal whether the concealed components are correct.

5 Preserve perimeter accommodation

Hazard: Rigidly filling an intended movement space can load or crack the glass-block assembly.

Control: Install the selected system's expansion strips, clearances and perimeter finishing without substituting mortar for a specified movement space. Check the released detail at jambs and head before closing them, while keeping the unfinished panel protected from contact.

Verification: Lead compares perimeter treatment with the actual system instructions.

Reasoning: Ordinary masonry joint filling is not the rule for every panel edge.

6 Protect curing and hand over

Hazard: Early impact, cleaning or removal of support can disturb the panel before release.

Control: Protect the work for the product's required curing and acceptance stage. Use only the approved cleanup method, contain any broken units and transfer actual findings and remaining access restrictions. Remove temporary measures only at the designated release.

Verification: Receiving lead confirms panel status before the bay is reopened.

Reasoning: A finished appearance supplies neither curing evidence nor a performance rating.

Pause and reassess

- Block series, mortar system or supporting frame differs from the released detail.
- Units chip or the unfinished panel moves unexpectedly.
- Reinforcement, perimeter accommodation or curing protection cannot be maintained.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Work carefully and wear PPE.

More useful: Apply the specified base treatment and mortar from stable access using suitable tools. Set identified units and spacers under the system instructions, maintain supported alignment and keep mortar off skin. Do not improvise packing to compensate for an unreleased base.

Needs improvement: Check that everything is ready.

More useful: Masonry lead verifies the base and perimeter frame, actual block series and approved panel detail. Check that the selected mortar, reinforcement and retention components belong to that system; hold work for unknown limits or conflicting supports.

Decisions that change the analysis

Does an installed glass-block panel automatically provide a fire-rated partition?

No. A rating depends on the identified tested assembly, supporting conditions and approved installation. This example makes no fire-resistance or impact rating claim and cannot substitute for that evidence.

What must the crew record for actual use?

Identify the actual equipment and work boundaries, responsible people, applicable criteria, inspection findings and open actions. Resolve changes with affected crews and obtain required project authorization before work.

Training needs

- The actual mortar glass-block assembly's panel limits, reinforcement, perimeter accommodation and curing sequence.
- Wet-mortar and glass-unit handling instruction, damaged-unit controls and the selected access arrangement.

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

References and adaptation

Seves Glass Block Mortar installation system instructions
<https://sevesglassblockinc.com/resources/sgb-002-mortar-installation-enes>

OSHA 1926.706 Masonry construction
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.706>

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.