

Glass and Large Panels: Plan Support Before Movement

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Why this matters

Glass can turn a small positioning error into a serious cut or crush injury. The highest-risk moment may be the handoff between a handling device and the frame receiving the pane.

Objective: Keep the pane supported and people clear through movement, positioning and release.

Key hazards or failure points

Sharp edges; breakage; trapped fingers; panel swing or overturning; blocked vision; strain; premature support removal.

Practical controls

- Confirm panel identity, dimensions, weight and condition. Select a suitable mechanical handling method where possible; the actual equipment instructions and plan govern capacity, attachment and orientation. Do not improvise a lift with hand suction cups.
- Prepare the complete route and receiving support before movement. Separate people on both sides of the opening and outside the potential fall or swing area. Provide room to step clear without entering another hazard.
- Agree one movement leader, commands and a stop signal everyone can use. Use selected, properly fitting cut and contact protection. Keep hands out of closing gaps; use the planned positioning method instead of fingers beneath an edge.

Verify It in the Field

Compare the actual pane and handling setup with the plan. Check the device through its prescribed inspection and function checks. Unknown weight, damaged glass or an unsuitable attachment is a hold point.

With the load still secured, walk the route and identify turning space, hand positions and the final support. Confirm required setting components and retention are ready; rehearse commands without moving glass.

Before releasing handling support, the designated lead checks that the specified independent support and retention are complete. A pane resting in an opening is not proof that it will stay there.

Stop and reassess

Stop for lost communication, unexpected resistance, shifting support, attachment concerns, an entering person or changed wind conditions. Follow the planned safe securing response. Never try to catch falling glass or hold an unstable stack upright by hand.

Ask the crew

1. Where could this pane trap or strike someone?
2. What supports it during the final handoff?
3. Who verifies retention before release?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.21; 1926.95; WorkSafe glass alerts; system instructions.

Free next step: [JHA/JSA planning & field-verification worksheet](#)

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/safe-glass-large-panel-handling