

Glass Racks and A-Frames: Keep Every Pane Restrained

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Why this matters

Removing one strap can release more than the pane you wanted. A stable-looking rack can become unstable as glass is unpacked, removed or placed on one side.

Objective: Verify the rack, support and restraint sequence before changing the stored load.

Key hazards or failure points

Rack overturning; sliding sheets; damaged edges; collapse during unpacking; uneven loading; vehicle impact; blocked access.

Practical controls

- Use a rack or A-frame intended for the actual glass and storage conditions. Confirm its load limits, permitted distribution and setup instructions. Transport packaging is not automatically suitable for repeated site storage.
- Prepare a suitable support surface and protect the storage area from traffic and other work. Keep passageways clear. Install the specified stops, padding, restraints and any required anchorage or wheel controls.
- Before removing packaging or common restraints, use the approved sequence to support the selected pane and secure the remaining glass. Keep people outside the fall path; never substitute a worker's hands for restraint.

Verify It in the Field

Match the rack identity and planned load with its instructions. Check frame condition, supports and restraints. Confirm floor capacity for the combined load and equipment; an empty rack's stability proves little.

Trace what each strap or bar restrains before releasing it. Identify where the selected pane will go and check the receiving support first. Resolve access to a middle sheet through the planned method.

After each transfer, check remaining restraint and load distribution against the rack instructions. Before handover, confirm glass condition, access and storage restrictions, and identify who will recheck changing site conditions.

Stop and reassess

Stop for unknown capacity, missing instructions, damaged restraints, leaning or moving frames, cracked glass or an unplanned loading sequence. Keep the area isolated and the load secured for qualified assessment; do not approach a falling stack to recover it.

Ask the crew

1. What else does this common restraint secure?
2. How will unloading change the frame's balance?
3. What proves the receiving support is ready?

Use the task plan and required specialist decisions before exposure.

Sources: OSHA 1926.250; NT WorkSafe glass alert; actual rack instructions.

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

Expanded guidance and separate forms: toddjeromejenkins.com/toolbox-talks/glass-storage-racks-a-frames