

**Composites****HANDLING GUIDELINES FOR NOBLE® SHEET GLASS SIDEWALLS**

As with any product, it is important to apply proper handling techniques to avoid damage or personal injury. This becomes even more important when dealing with sheet glass sidewalls.

1. Always wear suitable gloves when handling or carrying sheet glass to avoid injuries from potentially sharp edges.
2. Due to the weight and size of sheet glass panels, it is recommended that a properly-rated, overhead lifting device be used for handling and transporting panels. All overhead lifting devices should be properly rated and certified.
  - a. Lifting devices/cranes shall be equipped with either a clamping-type or vacuum-type lifting fixture.
  - b. Lifting fixtures shall be equipped with multiple pick-up points (vacuum or clamping) to allow the panel's weight to be equally distributed. Pick-up should be designed to be no more than 6' apart along the part's (longest) length, no more than 24" from the edge of the panel along (longest) length and no more than 36" from the (shorter) width ends.
  - c. Clamping-type pick-ups shall have a minimum clamping area of 24" square inches (typically a 4" x 6" padded clamping pad) for each pick-up.

**NOTE:** To avoid impairing the cosmetic surface or cause damage of the panel, pick-ups should be clean of all debris and care shall be taken not to over-clip.
  - d. Vacuum-type pick-ups are recommended to use a minimum cup size of 7.5" diameter.

**NOTE:** Due to varying vacuum lift designs the appropriate vacuum pressure (in/Hg) and vacuum cup size and style should be designated by the equipment manufacturer based upon the lifting requirements.
3. Sheet glass is intended for flat surface mounting and is not intended for mounting on a radius.
4. Care shall be taken to avoid bending the sheet glass around radii less than 5' during handling and transportation.
  - a. Cold temperatures will exponentially increase the likelihood of damage during handling and reduce the maximum allowable bending radius.
  - b. It is recommended that sheet glass panels be at a room temperature, no less than 60°F, before subjecting panels to the flexing and bending associated with installation.
5. To avoid personal injury, manual lifting of a panel should be avoided; however, if it is necessary to manually lift a panel, proper safety equipment should be utilized. No less than one person every 6' to 8' is recommended.
6. Care should be taken to avoid sliding panels on top of one another to reduce the likelihood of scratching the under panel with debris caught between the panels.
7. Avoid strong impact to either front or backside as this may cause crazing of the gel-coat surface.
8. Avoid storage in water, especially in hot weather. Continuous exposure or submersion in hot water can cause surface damage.
9. Remove any debris or contamination from the surface which may cause difficulties in the bonding to the frame of other substrates.

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