

IDENTIFICATION OF AND PROTECTION FROM TOUGHENED GLASS WHICH MAY BE LETHAL

- 1. Check each piece of glass installed in doors, adjacent to doors, showers, near floor level or full height. Also, glass in bathrooms and in sports arenas.
- 2. Look for a permanent mark or logo near one corner. This should include the manufacturer's name or trademark and the annotation AS/NZS 2208 or AS 2208. Examples of such logos are:





The one from Viridian includes the letter T and the number 4, while the one from G. James has the word "Tempered" and the number 4. Each of these indicates 4 mm toughened glass certified to AS/NZS 2208, which provides no assurance that the glass will break safely in the event of impact, or if it shatters without warning.

- 3. If there is not any logo or mark in one of the locations described in paragraph 1, it is possible that the glass is not a safety glass and therefore unsafe in that situation and does not comply with the current Building Code of Australia. Advice from a qualified glazier is advised in this situation.
- 4. If the logo has the word toughened, tempered or the letter "T" and the annotation AS 2208 or AS/NZS 2208, then it is certified by the manufacturer to comply with the requirement for toughened safety glass according to that (currently inadequate) Standard.
- 5. If, in addition to the letter 'T', the number 4,5 or 6 appears on the logo, this indicates that the glass is toughened glass of 4, 5 or 6mm (nominal) thickness. If this is the case, then the glass is likely to be unsafe, as a result of the inadequate testing method specified by the Standard.

- 6. Consumers should demand that any 4,5 or 6 mm thick toughened glass be certified in writing by the installer or manufacturer (identified by the logo, if present) as being toughened to the extent that it will break safely if it does break for any reason, failing which it needs to be replaced with glass that does so. Compliance with the current Australian Standard AS/NZS 2208 does not give any assurance as to its safety or fitness for use.
- 7. If you do not know who installed the glass, and the name of the manufacturer on the glass is unclear, you should contact a qualified glazier to assess the safety of the glass, but the current AS/NZS 2208 Standard should not be relied on. Independent, qualified assurance is required that the glass is toughened to the extent necessary to ensure that if it breaks, only small, non-lethal particles will be generated.
- 8. Until assurance is obtained as to the safety of the glass, or it is replaced with glass that is known to be fit for use, such glass needs to be made safe without delay by protecting both sides with a rigid panel (e.g. plywood), or a robust plastic film which adheres tenaciously to both faces of the entire exposed glass surface. A polyester safety film (of nominal thickness of minimum 100 micron) as installed by glass tinting companies is suitable.

If you can identify the name of the manufacturer, and cannot obtain any action by them, you should contact the ACCC by email, (https://www.accc.gov.au/contact-us/contact-the-accc/report-a-consumer-issue), or by telephone on 1 300 302 502.

For detailed information on the reasons for carrying out these procedures, please see:

www.StandardsWatch.org/.....

Or use the QR code below.

