Architectural Glass Maintenance

by Weggy Blow

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A key factor in modern construction designs today, is the use of visual embellishments that form an integral part of the entire structure. Of the many products used towards achieving this effect, architectural glass and glass products tend to leave the others behind. Their popularity can be attributed to certain advantages that are unique to their construction and suitability in diverse environments. Some advantages that are integral to their design are: they allow natural light to pass through while blocking out the harmful radiation of the sun, provide a clear view of the landscaping, help to achieve thermal efficiencies, etc.

Our choices are often influenced by the usage of such products, as they tend to play a significant role in maintaining the level of comfort during out lives. However, they do have their specific maintenance requirements in terms of cleaning regimens and guidelines, if they are to maintain their aesthetic and structural abilities. If mishandled by improperly trained personnel or by using the wrong methods, the glass may lose its luster or worse, be compromised from the safety aspect.

Fabricators and producers, often issue installation and maintenance guidelines that must be adhered to strictly, if the glass is to perform to its fullest potential, as designed. Some of the more common maintenance procedures include:

Periodic cleaning of dirt and residue from the surface

Watering down of construction slurry, (concrete/mortar slurry, for example), before it sets, and causes extensive damage

Care must also be taken to identify the type of glass and the coatings if any that may be present on the surface. This is to enable the application of correct treatment procedures and avoiding any further damage. Reflective coatings on glass are most susceptible to surface abrasions and damage. Treatments must be handled in a way that does not affect the surface coatings. Similarly, when treating tinted or reflective surfaces, one must ensure that direct sunlight does not fall on the portion being treated. This is to avoid excessive temperatures that may undermine the repair job.

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