



PILKINGTON

First in Glass™

Pilkington Activ™ Self-Cleaning Glass Frequently Asked Questions: Consumer

Q. Who makes it? Where can I get it?

A. Pilkington **Activ** Self-Cleaning Glass is produced by Pilkington North America's plant in Ottawa, Ill., located approximately 80 miles southwest of Chicago. It is available from window manufacturers and glass fabricators throughout North America. (See final question for more details.)

Q. Where can I use **Activ Glass?**

A. It can be used in any type of residential or commercial window, skylight and exterior facing glass door (such as ones used in enclosed porches).

Q. How does it work?

A. Pilkington **Activ** self-cleaning glass is a new glass product that is made by chemically bonding and integrating a special coating to one surface of clear glass. The integrated coating reacts to the sun's ultraviolet rays to gradually and continuously break down organic dirt through what's called a photocatalytic effect. At the same time, the glass reduces the surface tension of water to cause it to sheet down the surface and wash away dirt to leave windows nearly spotless. This is called a hydrophilic effect.

Q. Does it work immediately after being installed?

A. No. Before the integrated coating of **Activ** Glass can work, it needs to be exposed to the sun's ultraviolet rays for several days.

Q. Will I ever have to wash my windows again?

A. Yes, though not nearly as often as you do without using **Activ** Glass. If it has not rained for a significant period of time and you notice your windows getting dirty, simply spray your windows (or skylights, doors, etc.) with water and allow the hydrophilic effect to sheet away any dirt that has yet to be broken down. It is suggested that, when spraying **Activ** Glass windows, that you rinse from top to bottom. This maximizes the sheeting effect action by ensuring all the dirt can be washed off and, on heavily soiled windows, reduces streaking issues on drying. If there is a heavy build up of soil on the glass and it does not appear to be breaking down the dirt and/or sheeting it away when sprayed with water, then the integrated coating of **Activ** Glass has been "de-activated" (i.e., the dirt has prevented ultraviolet rays from reaching the glass surface). Simply use a standard, but non-abrasive window cleaner with a lint-free towel to hand wash the glass. Then, thoroughly rinse the glass and allow several days for the coating to be "reactivated" by UV rays.

Q. Will **Activ Glass work at night? On cloudy days?**

A. Yes. Once properly activated, the sun generates enough ultraviolet rays to keep **Activ** Glass working during daylight hours, on cloudy days and even at night.

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Q. What does it look like? Does it have a color?

A. Pilkington **Activ** Glass has very much the same appearance as any other clear float glass used in windows and skylights. The only noticeable difference is that it may appear slightly shinier.

Q. How long will the self-cleaning qualities last?

A. Pilkington guarantees that **Activ** Glass will last 10 years. However, tests indicate that it will last longer.

Q. Can the **Activ Glass coating be damaged?**

A. While the integrated coating of **Activ** Glass will not rub off, it can be damaged if the surface of the glass is damaged. Also, it may become damaged if an abrasive cleaner or steel wool, razor blade or other metal item is used to try to remove stubborn inorganic marks.

Q. Does it require special care or cleaning? Should I polish it?

A. No, generally no special care or polishing is required under normal conditions. However, you must avoid using any abrasive cleaners or objects such as steel wool or razor blades. It is suggested that, when spraying **Activ** Glass windows with water, that you rinse from top to bottom. This maximizes the sheeting effect action by ensuring all the dirt can be washed off and, on heavily soiled windows, reduces streaking issues on drying.

Q. Is it safe for the environment?

A. Yes. The integrated coating of **Activ** Glass will not degrade or peel off and damage the environment. Actually, by reducing or eliminating the need to use window cleaning detergents, **Activ** Glass limits or prevents the cleaning detergents from soaking into the ground.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. **Activ** Glass cannot be bought by itself. It can only be purchased when purchasing a window (or skylight, door, etc.) that uses **Activ** Glass. Since the glass is just one component of a window, skylight, door, etc., and those costs are set by the window manufacturer/distributor, Pilkington has little control over the final cost. However, it is estimated that windows with **Activ** Glass will cost approximately 20% more than windows using standard, clear glass.

Q. Aren't there other glass products like it already?

A. No. There are sprays and coatings that consumers can purchase to spray on their automotive windshields that cause water to bead which does not work well on vertically glazed applications. In addition, these sprays are only temporary and only affect how water reacts to the glass. These sprays have no self-cleaning properties.

Q. Can I use **Activ Glass as the inside pane of glass?**

A. No. The integrated coating of the glass must be exposed to the sun's ultraviolet rays to work. Therefore, its self-cleaning properties will not be activated if the coating faces inside the home or building.

Q. Can **Activ Glass be used in interior applications such as shower doors?**

A. No, because glass used in these applications do not receive enough UV rays to activate the **Activ** coating. Therefore, it can neither break down dirt nor provide sheeting action when water is applied.

Q. Where can I purchase Pilkington **Activ Glass?**

A. **Activ** Glass is available from select window manufacturers across the United States during the summer 2001. Beginning in late 2001, **Activ** Glass will be available throughout North America. To find out more about windows and other products that use **Activ** Glass, call 1-866-88 ACTIV (1-866-882-2848), or visit www.activglass.com.

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