



PILKINGTON

NSG Group Flat Glass Business

Technical Information

ATS-126
2005/07/14

GUIDELINES WHEN USING LAWN SPRINKLERS

Landscaping sprinkler systems near the perimeter of a building often cause the unnecessary and unwanted deposition of minerals on the building walls due to wetting and evaporation. Since these sprinkler systems may be automatically controlled to activate daily, this build-up of deposits may be significant.

Minerals, including iron and calcium, are present to some degree in all water supplies. Dried mineral deposits adhere quite well to smooth surfaces such as glass, and can be very difficult to remove. The mineral deposits themselves will not degrade glass, but they are unsightly and may build up over a period of time until there is a very noticeable stained appearance. Bear in mind that usually the glass is not actually stained or etched; it simply has a deposit on the surface. Glasses with a coating on the exterior #1 surface, such as Pilkington **Activ**[™] Self-Cleaning Glass or Pilkington **OptiView**[™] Anti-Reflective Glass, can show such dried deposits very readily.

Problems may occur when a window washer uses an abrasive or strong acid cleaner to remove the deposits. On glass surfaces this can often be carefully done with some success, but repeated action will ultimately damage the glass. Removing these deposits is even more difficult from first surface coated glass.

Architects, landscapers, and building owners should be advised that it is good design practice to eliminate or minimize overspray on all building surfaces, particularly glass. There are alternative irrigation systems such as drip irrigation, underground irrigation, and limited pattern spray heads. These alternatives should be considered near the perimeter of a building.

If deposits do occur, remember the basic guide: Glass, and #1 surface coated glass, should never be allowed to become dirtier than is visibly acceptable. They should be cleaned as frequently as is necessary to prevent them from ever appearing unacceptably dirty. In this way problems with the accumulation and hardening of dirt deposits can be prevented.

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