Glazier (Glass Worker) – Fact Sheets



WHAT DOES A GLAZIER DO?

A glazier is a person who works with glass – installing, repairing or replacing glass in commercial, industrial or residential buildings or in automobiles.

- The main duties of a glazier include:
- Cutting, grinding, polishing and drilling glass.
- Handling of sheets of glass in the warehouse, during transportation, and at the work site. This handling may involve using slings and power lift devices.
- Applying adhesives, sealants and caulks.
- Using, cleaning and maintaining various types of equipment.
- Administrative tasks such as preparing estimates and invoices, supervising assistants, and ensuring compliance with building codes.

What are some health and safety issues for glaziers?

Glaziers can work in a variety of settings. Some of these settings, such as construction sites, may contain many hazards which glaziers must be aware of.

The main health and safety issues for glaziers include:

- Work at heights, including work on ladders and scaffolds – fall injuries.
- Handling large, awkward, heavy sheets of glass – back and arm injuries.
- Working in awkward positions and standing for long periods of time – back and arm injuries.
- Slips, trips and falls.
- Cuts and lacerations from sharp edges of glass.
- Eye injuries from flying particles when cutting and grinding glass.
- Exposure to dust from cutting, grinding, drilling and polishing of glass.
- Using hand tools and powered hand tools.
- Exposures to solvents in adhesives, sealants and cleaning products.
- Working outdoors in hot or cold weather.
- Working alone.

What are some preventative measures for a glazier?

- Proper procedures for working at heights on ladders and scaffolds.
- Apply safe lifting techniques.

- Ensure that tools and equipment are in good working order. Use ergonomic friendly tools.
- Know how to use tools and equipment safely.
- Use correct personal protective equipment such as eye protection when cutting and grinding.
- Use protective gloves and footwear when handling glass sheets.
- Take frequent breaks to avoid fatigue.
- Keep a first-aid kit/box within easy access.
- Learn how to prevent heat stress and cold stress when working in extreme hot and cold environments.
- Carry a mobile phone or other alternative means to contact with a designated person when working alone.

What are some good general work practices?

- On construction sites, know the safety rules and procedures.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment, including footwear, head protection, eye protection and gloves.
- Read the material safety data sheets for any hazardous products that you use and follow any recommended safety precautions.
- Avoid stress and fatigue associated with working long workdays, shift work, and tight deadlines.
- Follow good housekeeping procedures.

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