



Use this leaflet to check if your window and door installation complies with the requirements for safety glazing

**FENSA**

# Essential Window and Door Safety Information For Homeowners

**If you have recently installed windows or doors you are STRONGLY URGED to read this leaflet**

## Why Check?

- You need to be sure that your home is a Safe Environment.
- It is a legal requirement to install **safety glazing** in Critical Locations. Checking could save lives.
- Approved Document N (Glazing - Protection against impact) of the Building Regulations in England and Wales provides guidance for safety glazing.
- BS 6262-4:2005 provides details of safety glazing requirements.

## What you need to do

- Identify areas in your home that are considered to be **'critical locations'** (see Figure 1 - over page).
- You must then check that these critical locations have safety glazing material installed.
- If safety glazing material has been installed, there will be **visible markings** you can check.

All safety glasses must be visibly marked on the glass. If the 'visible markings' on the safety glazing material is not clear or you have any concerns about whether the safety glazing has been installed to the correct standard, **you should go back to the original window installer and seek advice.** If you are not happy with their response, you should contact FENSA [www.fensa.org.uk](http://www.fensa.org.uk)

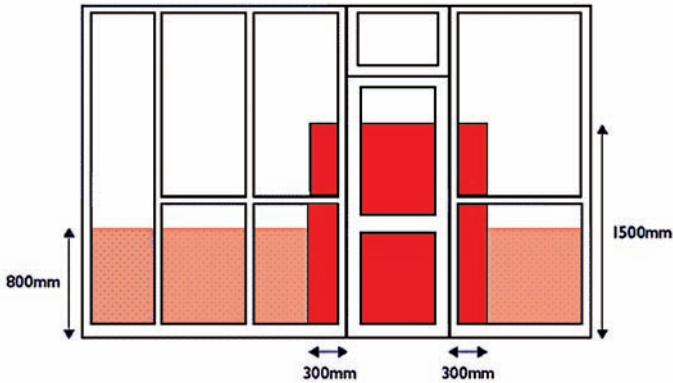
## Safety Glazing is:

- A glass or glazing product which conforms to the relevant European glazing standard e.g. BS EN 12150 or BS EN 14449 or BS EN 14179.
- The glass has also been tested against the European standard for BS EN 12600 for safety impact. This means that on impact the glass does not break or breaks in a way unlikely to cause serious injury.

**Safety Glazing needs to be installed in Critical Locations**  
**Check here that your windows comply with Building Regulations**

## Identifying 'Critical Locations' in your home

Figure 1:  
Critical  
Locations



'The diagram has been used with kind permission of BSI'

The shaded areas (Figure 1) are critical locations which require the use of safety glass. These are:

Those areas of internal and external walls that are considered 'critical locations' in terms of safety are:

- Between the finished floor level and 1500mm above that level in doors and in side panels which are within 300mm of either edge of the door.
- Between the finished floor level and 800mm above that level in the case of windows not included in a) above.

- Glazing in Bathing Areas:  
Any glazing forming part of a bath or shower screen, or located adjacent to, or surrounding, a bath, swimming pool, or other associated wet area, constitutes a potential danger because of the possibility of a person slipping on a wet surface. In these cases, all glazing should be Safety Glazing conforming to BS 6262-4:2005. A window within 800mm of the bottom of a bath or shower should be safety glass.

## How to check for visible markings on safety glass

The marking requirements have recently changed. The visible markings on each piece of safety glazing within 'critical locations' (see below) must be clearly and indelibly marked with:

### New System

- The glass product standard which the glass complies with e.g. BS EN 12150, BS EN 14179, BS EN 14449
- The classification following testing to BS EN 12600. This will be Class 1, 2 or 3.
- The name or trade mark of the manufacturer.

### Old System (obsolete)

- The British Standard number BS 6206.
- The category of safety glass being used e.g. Class A, Class B or Class C.
- The name, trade mark or other identification mark of the manufacturer, merchant or installer.

Example of a Visible Marking:

**ACME GLASS CO**  
**BS EN 12150**

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There are instances where glazing other than safety glass and safety plastics are deemed to be satisfactory but these are **EXCEPTIONS**.