

WHEN SELECTING A FIRE-RATED GLASS CERAMIC, ENSURE THE “PREMIUM” PRODUCT YOU ARE SELECTING IS POLISHED

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLISHED AND UNPOLISHED CERAMICS?

Polished ceramics are finish ground on both surfaces so that the finished glazing is nearly distortion free. Unpolished ceramics, on the other hand, have some visible distortion, similar to the wavy look of antique plate glass. Such distortion can draw unnecessary attention to the glass and detract from its overall aesthetics.

What causes the distortion? Ceramic is manufactured in the manner all glass was made prior to the invention of the float method. Instead of the glass being “floated” on hot tin, it is drawn out between rollers. These rollers leave a slight surface distortion on the glass. The polishing process grinds the surfaces to a smooth finish, minimizing this distortion.

While some suppliers promote unpolished ceramics as a “premium” product, **Technical Glass Products (TGP) is the only source in North America offering polished, virtually distortion-free fire-rated ceramic glass.**

WHAT ARE THE GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FIRELITE?

The industry standard for more than a decade, FireLite ceramic glass from TGP is made from transparent glass-ceramic, and differs in color from float glass. FireLite appears to have a warmer earth tone when compared to the blue green tint of typical float glass. However, like float glass, FireLite ceramic will not demonstrate a highly perceptible color once installed in a frame. FireLite is available in large sizes and can be installed in standard fire-rated frames. FireLite is fire-rated for up to 3 hours, passes the required hose stream test and is listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.®

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PREMIUM FIRELITE AND STANDARD GRADE FIRELITE?

FireLite ceramic glass is available in three distinct surface grades (premium, standard and obscure). Both the standard and premium grades provide a clear wireless surface condition. FireLite standard grade has a slight surface waviness and FireLite premium grade is polished to provide optimal clarity. Obscure grade has a patterned surface to provide additional privacy.

To view samples that illustrate the different FireLite surface qualities, please refer to fireglass.com. To request a sample kit, please contact TGP at 800.426.0279.

WHAT IS THE MATERIAL LEAD TIME FOR THESE PRODUCTS?

FireLite® products can be obtained locally. FireLite distributors in your area stock, cut and label wireless fire-rated products that meet ANSI and CPSC impact standards. With no need to ship these products, customers can take advantage of quick cutting, labeling (to meet code requirements) and delivery.

For a local distributor in your area, contact TGP or visit fireglass.com/distributors/

WHAT IS THE COST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN POLISHED AND UNPOLISHED CERAMICS?

Polished and unpolished fire-rated ceramics both come at a premium price over typical window glass, given their unique material properties and ability to provide critical life safety and property protection from flames and smoke. Due to additional processing, polished ceramic is the higher priced product, but provides the greatest clarity.

WHO CAN PROVIDE A COST QUOTE FOR POLISHED VS. UNPOLISHED CERAMICS?

For further details, and a list of qualified glaziers in your area, please contact TGP.