

Installing Acrylic Mirror

Acrylic mirror has many advantages over glass. It is 1/2 the weight and many times more break resistant. It can be easily cut or shaped to fit a frame. In appearance, acrylic mirror is indistinguishable from glass. But, it must be mounted properly.

Since the acrylic mirror is somewhat flexible, it can, in time, conform to the irregularities of the supporting surface. A non-smooth, non-planar surface will cause localized bending of the mirrored sheet and distortion in the reflected image. Visual distortion is also a function of viewing distance and material thickness. Thicker acrylic is less flexible and therefore maintains better optical integrity.

Correct

installation and sufficient material thickness can reduce visual distortion but **MAY NOT COMPLETELY ELIMINATE IT.**

For best results, mirrored sheets should be mounted to a smooth, rigid, sturdy flat backing such as 5/8" or 3/4" MDF, medium-density fibre board, or equally flat surface. Surface should be clean, dry and free of any flaking or powdery paint .

Ceiling and overhead installations are not recommended unless the mirrored acrylic is mounted in edge-engaging frames such as T-bar suspended ceiling frames or mechanical mounting.

Mirrored acrylic has a reflective film applied to backside of the acrylic . Paint is then applied to protect the reflective surface. Use only adhesives designed for acrylic mirror. Ask a TAP salesperson for the recommended adhesive. Some adhesives may contain solvents such as toluene, ketones and hexane that can attack the mirror's backcoat. Adhesives with solvents of 5% or more are not recommended. Since numerous adhesives, cements, and mastics are available, they should be tested on expendable pieces prior to application. All tests should be applied at least 72 hours in advance to determine compatibility to the backcoat, the reflective coating and the acrylic itself.

Apply adhesive in vertical beads of 5-6" apart, starting about 3" from the edge. Mount mirror within 10 minutes of applying adhesive. Support mirror mechanically (mirror clips, etc.) until adhesive dries. Do not apply adhesive if temperature is below 60° F. Read and follow adhesive instructions carefully. Clean mirror with a micro fiber cloth and soapy water, Brilliance or Novus Plastic Cleaners.

Again we stress, before using any adhesives, cements, or mastics, please test expendable samples for at least 72 hours to determine suitability.