



Demystifying Satin Etched Glass: FAQ Guide for Architects and Designers

Satin etched glass continues to gain traction as a go-to solution for architectural and interior applications, offering both refined aesthetics and subtle privacy. From office partitions to glass entrances, shower doors, and wall cladding, the material's versatility and elegance make it a favorite among design professionals.

At GGI, our PEARL™ collection of satin etched glass and mirror is engineered to meet the exacting demands of architects and designers. The following guide answers frequently asked questions to simplify the specification and application of satin etched glass—specifically GGI's PEARL brand.

Q. What is PEARL™ satin etched glass?

A. PEARL is GGI's brand of satin etched glass. It is produced using an acid-etching process on one or both surfaces of float glass, resulting in a smooth, pearl-like matte finish that diffuses light while maintaining brightness. This finish provides subtle privacy and minimizes glare. Satin etched glass differs from sandblasted glass in that it is more uniform and less susceptible to surface wear or fingerprinting.

Q. What sizes and thicknesses are available?

A. GGI offers PEARL satin etched glass in a wide range of standard thicknesses from 1/8" (3mm) up to 1/2" (12mm). Full sheet sizes for PEARL Clear satin etched glass include 63" x 88 1/2", 88 1/2" x 126", and 94 1/2" x 126". View individual product pages to determine the stock sizes and thicknesses available for each unique glass type.

Q. Does PEARL™ have a trim requirement?

A. Our PEARL Low Iron satin etched glass has a minimal trim of only 0.60", which is significantly less than leading etched glass brands, which can be as much as 2". PEARL clear satin etched glass has NO TRIM, leaving the full sheet to be utilized.

Q. Is PEARL™ low-iron satin etched glass available?

A. Yes. GGI offers PEARL Low-Iron satin etched glass, which features a higher level of clarity and

A dark blue square containing the text 'SEE WHAT GLASS CAN DO' in white, uppercase, sans-serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: 'SEE WHAT', 'GLASS', and 'CAN DO'.



brightness. It eliminates the green tint often present in standard float glass, making it ideal for applications where color neutrality and high light transmission are desired.

Q. What is PEARL™ Low-Iron Ultra satin etched glass?

A. PEARL Low Iron Ultra satin etched glass is GGI's most refined satin etched option. It offers an ultra-soft matte finish on a low-iron glass substrate, delivering an even more luxurious surface with elevated transparency. This makes it perfect for applications requiring subtle privacy with a premium, silky appearance.

Q. How does the opacity of GGI's PEARL™ satin etched glass compare to other brands?

A. While no two manufacturers produce acid-etched glass with the exact same opacity, GGI's PEARL satin etched glass offers opacity levels comparable to the leading brands in the architectural glass market. It is designed to closely align with industry expectations while delivering enhanced fingerprint resistance and visual softness.

Q. Is GGI's PEARL™ satin etched glass resistant to fingerprints and stains?

A. Yes. PEARL satin etched glass is virtually fingerprint-free, which enhances its appeal for high-touch installations, such as doors, tabletops, cabinetry, and partitions. It is important to note that no satin etched glass is 100% stain-proof. However, the PEARL satin etched glass surface requires minimal maintenance compared to other etched glass types.

Q. Is PEARL™ satin etched glass available in tinted glass substrates?

A. Yes. GGI offers PEARL in Bronze and Grey satin etched glass options, which combine the softness of the etched finish with the richness of tinted glass. These variants are well-suited for architectural designs that require privacy with warmth, color depth, or enhanced mood.

Q. Is PEARL™ satin etched mirror available?

A. Yes. GGI offers PEARL satin etched mirror products in Low Iron, Bronze, and Grey. These options bring a softly diffused reflection to residential and commercial interiors.

Q. Can PEARL™ satin etched glass be tempered, laminated, or insulated?

A. Absolutely. PEARL satin etched glass can be heat-strengthened or fully tempered to meet safety glazing code requirements. It can also be laminated for decorative, safety, or acoustic purposes, or incorporated into insulated glass units (IGUs) for exterior applications requiring thermal performance.

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Q. Can PEARL™ satin etched glass be back-painted?

A. Yes. PEARL is an excellent substrate for back-painting, providing an ultra-smooth base for rich, opaque color. Back-painting on satin etched surfaces eliminates glare and creates a soft, matte look ideal for wall cladding, cabinetry, markerboards, or branded environments.

Q. Can Alice® GEN 3.0 Direct-to-Glass Printing be applied to PEARL satin etched glass?

A. Yes. GGI's Alice® GEN 3.0 direct-to-glass printing can be applied to the non-etched side of PEARL satin etched glass. This allows for vivid, high-resolution graphics, branding, and custom artwork to be applied—achieving a high-quality outcome.

Q. Can PEARL™ satin etched glass be used in wet environments?

A. Yes. PEARL is well-suited for high-humidity areas such as bathrooms, locker rooms, and spas.

Q. Is the satin etched finish on PEARL™ consistent across panels?

A. PEARL is produced under strict standards to ensure uniform surface quality and opacity across all sheets.

Q. Can the PEARL™ satin etched surface be exposed in exterior glazing applications?

A. Yes. PEARL is engineered for surface exposure (facing outward on a facade) and is resistant to touch and wear. This results in durable glass applications for long-lasting results.

Q. How does lighting affect the appearance of PEARL™ satin etched glass?

A. Lighting enhances the beauty of satin etched glass. Natural light creates a soft, ambient glow, while backlighting or spotlights can emphasize surface textures and patterns.

Q. How should PEARL™ satin etched glass be cleaned?

A. PEARL is an easy-to-clean, maintenance-free glass solution. Use a standard non-abrasive glass cleaner and a soft microfiber (or other lint-free) cloth.

Q. What framing or installation systems are compatible with the installation of PEARL™?

A. PEARL can be installed using traditional framing systems such as aluminum channels, clips, or point-supported fittings.

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Q. Can PEARL™ satin etched glass support LEED credits?

A. Yes. PEARL can potentially contribute to LEED® credits focused on lighting quality and environmental performance. Its matte finish helps reduce glare, control luminance, and improve visual comfort—supporting Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ) goals and Light Pollution Reduction.

By diffusing daylight, PEARL enhances daylight access and supports multi-zone lighting control strategies. For exterior use, it can assist in Light Pollution Reduction credits by minimizing sky-glow and light trespass.

Design with Confidence Using PEARL™

PEARL satin etched glass from GGI delivers an ideal blend of beauty, performance, and design flexibility. Whether your project requires subtle privacy, decorative texture, or printed customization, PEARL offers a high-quality solution tailored for today's architectural needs. With options in clear, low-iron, tinted, and mirrored formats—as well as compatibility with back-painting and digital printing—PEARL is a versatile, modern choice for sophisticated glass design.

Explore the possibilities at www.generalglass.com or contact your GGI representative to request samples, technical data, or design support.

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