

How to measure for a glass splashback

Every splashback is toughened safety glass, cut to the millimetre in our Belfast workshop and supplied for you to fit. Toughened glass cannot be cut once it is made, so the sizes you send are the sizes you get. Measure in millimetres, twice.

A single rectangular splashback

- Measure the width at the top (A) and at the bottom (C). Check for any slight difference between the two.
- Measure the height at the left (B) and at the right (D).
- If the two heights differ by **less than 2 mm**, send the shorter one. If they differ by more, send both heights and a drawing showing which side is taller (the run-off or taper).
- **Deduct 2 mm** from the width and height you send, to allow for the kitchen units expanding and contracting and for glass cutting tolerance. Without this gap a unit moving by 1 mm can break the glass.

A full wall, in one panel or several

- Mark two vertical, level lines 2 mm in from the edges of the wall units (on low-tack decorating tape if the wall is tiled). These are your A lines.
- Left panel width: from the wall or side to the first A line, **minus 2 mm**. Right panel width: from the second A line to the wall or side, **minus 2 mm**. Centre panel: the distance between the two A lines.
- Heights: measure the remaining heights (E) and **deduct 2 mm**.
- The measurements are the same whether the glass is made as one panel or three.

Sockets and switches

- Measure to the **centre** of each socket faceplate: the distance from the left edge of the panel (C) and the height up from the worktop (D). No deduction on these.
- Tell us whether each cut-out is a single or a double socket. If a socket is a non-standard size, give its size. If two sockets touch, say so.
- Cut-outs are cut before the glass is toughened and sit behind the faceplate, so the finished edge is hidden.

Cooker hoods and shaped panels

- Three separate panels around a chimney hood: deduct 2 mm from all three E heights.
- One panel shaped around the hood (an upside-down T): deduct **3 mm** from the E heights, because the two internal corners have a small radius.
- Hood and worktop heights can vary along their length, so check both ends as you would for a rectangular panel. Send a template or drawing for any shaped panel.

What to send with your order

Width and height in millimetres (already reduced by 2 mm). A drawing if the heights differ by more than 2 mm. Socket positions to the centre of each faceplate, single or double, and whether any touch. A template or drawing for any shape or notch. A straight-on photo of the wall with a tape measure held against it is a good safety net — we check it against your figures.

How to fit a glass splashback

You need a silicone gun and a tube of **neutral-cure, low-modulus, solvent-free silicone**. Do not use acetic (vinegar-smelling) silicone or grab adhesives: they can attack the coating on the back of the glass. Two people make a large panel much easier to handle.

Step by step

- 1 **Clean the wall.** It must be dry, dust-free and reasonably flat. Run a straight edge over it: small hollows take a little extra silicone, small bumps need less. A bump near a corner can push one end of the panel out so the next panel will not meet it.
- 2 **Dry fit.** Offer the panel up without adhesive to check the size, the socket positions and the gap at each edge.
- 3 **Apply the silicone in blobs, not beads.** Squeeze equal blobs about **20 mm** across onto the back of the glass, roughly **100 mm** apart, in a regular grid. Keep every blob well clear of the edges so nothing squeezes out when the panel is pressed on.
- 4 **Press the panel onto the wall** gently and evenly, starting from the bottom edge resting on the worktop (or on 2 mm packers if the worktop is not yet fitted). Check it is level and sitting in the right place before the silicone grabs.
- 5 **Leave it alone for 24 hours** while the silicone cures. Do not fit the sockets or lean anything on the glass in that time.
- 6 **Seal the perimeter.** Run a thin bead of the same neutral-cure silicone along the join with the worktop and any open edges, then smooth it. This keeps water out from behind the glass.
- 7 **Refit the socket faceplates** over the cut-outs. The faceplate should cover the cut edge of the glass.

Mirror splashbacks

Fit a mirror splashback exactly as above: the same neutral-cure silicone in small, well-spaced blobs, and seal the perimeter straight away once the panel is pressed on. Keep every blob clear of the edges so nothing squeezes out onto the face of the mirror.

Behind a hob

- The glass is toughened and heat resistant to over 400 °C, so it can sit directly behind gas, induction, ceramic and electric hobs and range cookers.
- For a gas hob keep the glass at least **75 mm** from the edge of the burner flames. Do not leave hot pans touching the glass for long periods — the heat passes straight through to the painted or printed backing.
- Acrylic splashbacks are different: they must not be fitted behind any hob or heat source.

Caring for it

- Wipe with warm soapy water or a non-abrasive glass cleaner and a soft cloth. No scouring pads or cream cleaners.
- There are no grout lines, so grease does not get trapped. The optional Easy Clean coating makes grease wipe off with less effort.
- The twelve-month warranty against discolouration and delamination applies when the panel has been fitted as above: expansion gap left, neutral-cure silicone used, perimeter sealed.

Questions? 0808 254 0007, Monday to Saturday 9-5, or enquiries@diysplashbacks.co.uk. Step-by-step videos are at diysplashbacks.co.uk/how-to.