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DIY Glass Block Kit

Standard Installation Details

Step 1: Aluminium Framing:

Join the mitre cut corners of the framing together by using the angle brackets supplied. The tight fit should be sufficient for permanent fixing. Several 6-8mm dia. drill holes in the sill would help in the draining of moisture. Anchor/secure frame into opening.

Note: Frames are NON-LOAD BEARING

Step 2: Slider Tape:

Place one row of Slider Tape on all inside 25mm edges of framing. Cover the inside sill framing fully with slider tape – overlapping each row slightly for complete coverage.

Note: Slider Tape serves as a divorcing membrane between the mortar and the frame.

Step 3: Expansion (Cushion) Material (100mm x 10mm)

Line the inside of the frame on each jamb and head with Expansion Material – supplied. This is not place in the sill.

Note: The inside of the frame is completely covered by the slider tape and expansion material.

Step 4: Anchor Pieces & Reinforcement

The anchor pieces are attached to each end of the horizontal & vertical ladder reinforcement lengths and placed inside the frame. Vertical rods are installed prior to laying glass blocks. Horizontal rods are installed progressively, above every third course (using 190mm blocks) and every fourth course (using 145mm blocks).

Note: The horizontal ladder rod is 29mm wide to allow it to pass through the centre of the 42mm wide vertical rods. The use of the plastic spacers will ensure that both vertical & horizontal reinforcement does not come into contact with the glass blocks.



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SPACERS

Please Note:

1. Spacers provided will suit both frame sizes – 100 x 25 & 100 x 40 aluminium channel – with noted variation (below) for the 100x25 channel.
2. Placing a Spacer in each corner position will create a 13mm mortar joint instead of the required 10mm mortar joint between the frame and glass block due to the 'internal' corner bracket being 3mm thick.

Therefore it is suggested that the spacer is either not used in this corner position or 3mm be cut off both the side & bottom of the plastic spacer so that it fits inside the frame to produce the required 10mm mortar joint.

Variation for 100 x 25mm aluminium channel

The spacers provided should be turned 'upside down' for the first row only. This will produce the required 10mm mortar bed joint between the frame and the first row of glass blocks (spacers were originally manufactured to suit the 100x40mm channel only). Spacers must then be installed in each successive row as marked i.e. 'top' facing up.

Step 5: Mortar Mix (supplied)

To achieve a stiff workable mix, a rate of 3 litres of potable water per 20kg bag is recommended. Final colour will be white but may vary slightly dependant upon curing and general site conditions.

Step 6: Mortar Joints

To obtain a uniform mortar joint between glass blocks (10mm), the use of spacers provided is recommended. The perimeter glass blocks are NOT inserted inside the channel – allow for a 10mm perimeter mortar joint between the frame and the glass blocks. This perimeter mortar joint (on both faces of glass block panel) is to be raked to depth 10mm to allow for a silicone beading.

Note: Vertical and Horizontal mortar joints throughout the panel must be 10mm



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Step 7: Glass Blocks

Begin laying glass blocks using Spacers provided. Line and level (both horizontally and vertically) should be checked at least every third course.

Note: Always lay first and last glass block on each row FIRST to allow for easy packing of mortar mix inside the aluminium framing.

Step 8: Silicone – Perimeter Expansion Joints

Perimeter expansion joints are to be separated from metal frame by a 10mm x 10mm bead of silicone (supplied) on both faces of the glass block panel.

Step 9: Maintenance of Glass Block Panel/s

Use warm water & soap/detergent mixture and soft cloth or sponge to clean down all elements of glass block wall panel and perimeter frame. Frequency of cleaning as required.

Do not use: Acid or dilute acid mixture;
Abrasive cleaning fluid or compound;
Abrasive type cleaning cloth.

Special Notes:

- Water content when mixing the mortar is important so as to keep the mix slump free.
- NO additives to mortar are required (i.e. Bycol or Lime).