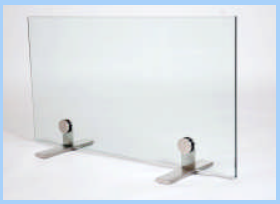




The Glass Fire Guard Company

(www.glassfireguard.com)

72 Arthur Road, Wimbledon, London, SW19 7DS

The Glass Fire Guard Company specialises in the design and manufacture of bespoke glass fire guards, that suit period and contemporary fires and enhance the focal point effect of an open fire. The following should help you in selecting the right size fire guard, and also provides some general information.

Designs

We have two basic ranges, “Minimalist” and “Wings”, each available in any size you specify. The Minimalist range is plain and simple, and comes with square or rounded corners. You can also add a hand hold and bottom vent if you desire.

The Wings range makes much more of a statement and is a work of art in itself. A bottom vent can also be added to this design.

Each can be ordered with stainless steel feet in a choice of brushed satin or bright polished finish. Please contact us with any special requirements. All our fire guards are made from 10mm thick toughened glass, tempered to BS6206.

Tinted glass is also available, and we are happy to take on specialised commissions (for example parallel to wall fitted guards, glass fire places, etc).

Minimalist range:

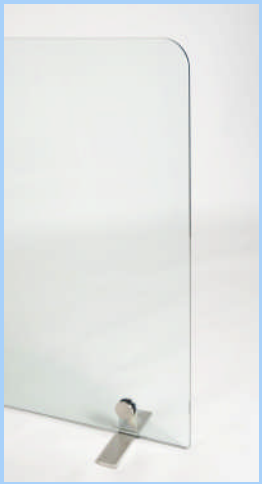
Plain square edged


Minimalist range:

With hand hold

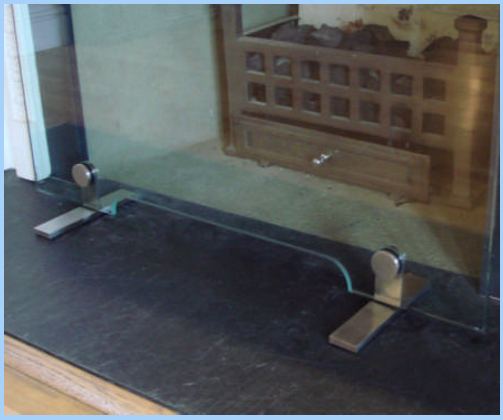
Minimalist range:

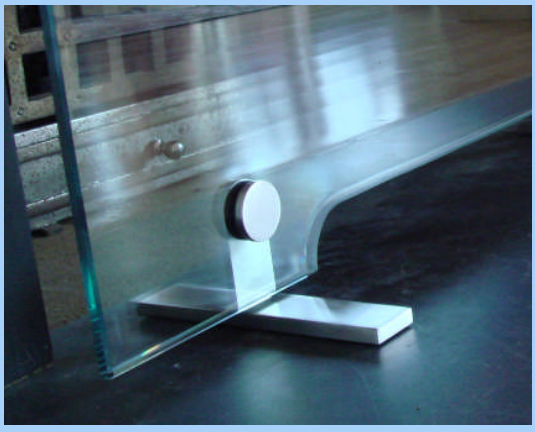
Rounded corners



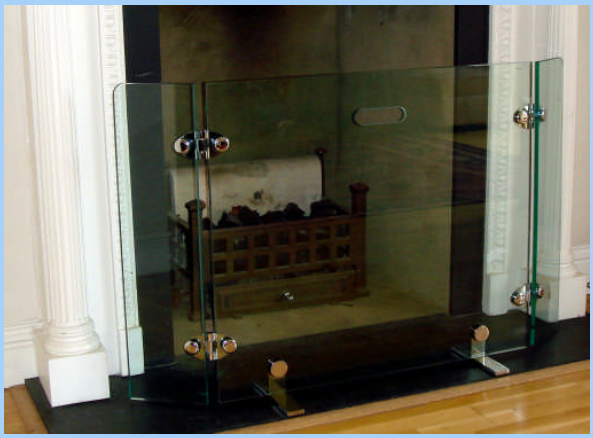
Minimalist range:

With bottom vent



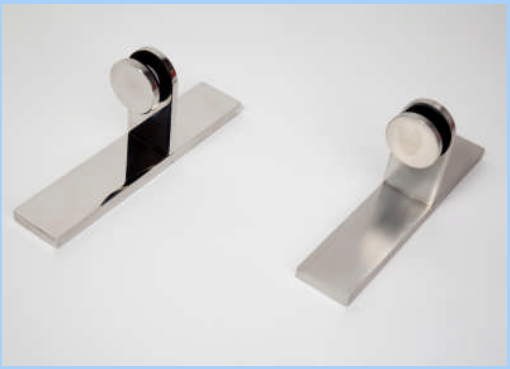


“Wings” range



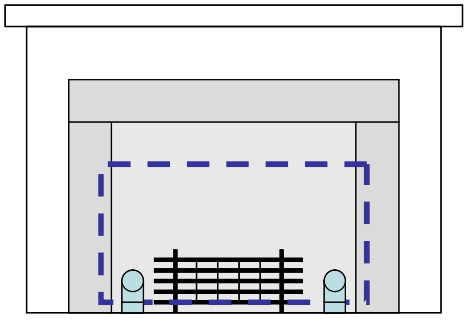
Feet

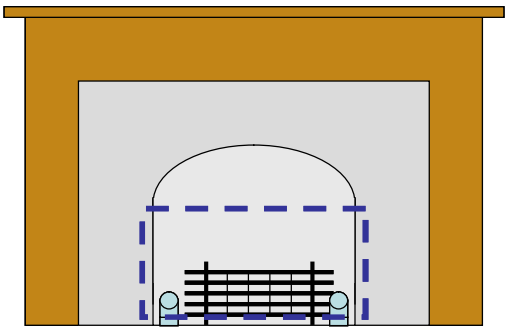
Our feet are engineered from heavy duty grade 304 stainless steel, laser cut by computer numeric controlled (CNC) machine tools, welded and polished. They are available in a choice of brushed satin or highly polished finish, as shown below:



Measuring up

We can supply glass fireguards in any size, all in 10mm toughened glass. We recommend they be ordered to overlap the fire place insert by a few centimetres each side, and with a gap left between the top of the fire guard and the top of the fireplace insert. This is illustrated in the diagram below for two common designs of fireplace.





Toughened glass

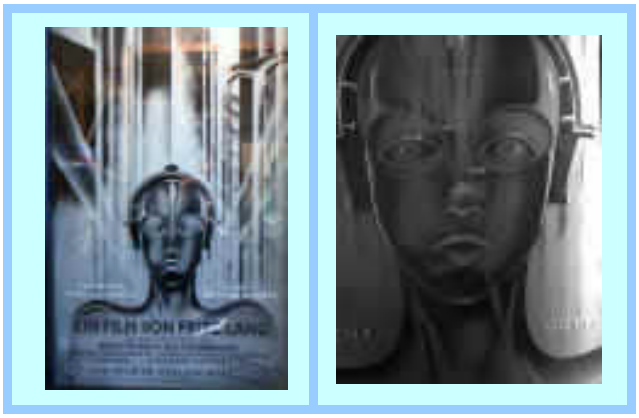
This is a heat treatment process, applied after all other finishing of the glass. It involves heating the glass to around 620 degrees centigrade in a special furnace, and then cooling it rapidly. Toughening does not make the glass shatterproof, but it does make it many times stronger than normal glass. Furthermore, in the unlikely event that it does break, the glass will break into small pieces without sharp edges.

For this reason, toughened glass is specified for glazed doors, low level windows and tabletops. Toughened glass can also withstand high temperatures, as well as a large temperature differential between its surfaces (one side hot, the other cold). These properties make toughened glass ideal for glass fire guards. Please however ensure that your glass fire guard is positioned so that flames from the fire will not directly bear on it.

Our glass fire guards are toughened to BS (British Standard) 6206.

Art glass

We are able to offer any design etched or sandblasted onto your glass fire guard. This can be a single image, or a repeating pattern. An example is shown here (from the poster for the famous SciFi film Metropolis):



(images courtesy and copyright of Philip Bradbury Glass)

Safety

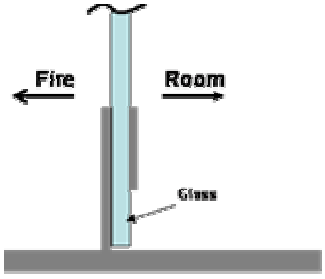
Safety is all important. A fire guard serves two basic purposes – it stops pieces of burning wood or coal "spitting" out of the fire and on to a combustible surface, such as a carpet, rug or wooden floor, and it stops people or clothing getting too close to a fire, when it is on (to prevent burning) and when it is off (to prevent getting soot and other dirt everywhere).

Like any fire guard that is not physically screwed to the wall or fireplace, it is possible to pull a glass fire guard over. However, there are a number of features that make this difficult.

Weight – a glass fire guard is heavy and whilst an adult or older child can pick one up and move it, a toddler would find this difficult. In fact, compared to a normal metal cage type fire guard, which is generally very light in weight, a glass fire guard has a distinct advantage here.

The non-slip feet mean that the glass fire guard generally only moves if you want it to!

The asymmetrical design of the feet means that the longer side can be positioned facing the room, therefore making it more difficult to pull the glass fire guard over – and almost impossible to do so accidentally – see diagram below.



Side view

The use of toughened glass, in accordance with BS6206, means that the glass used is extremely strong – many times stronger than untreated glass of a similar thickness (and 10mm thick glass is extremely strong even in its untreated state). In the unlikely event that the glass does it will break into small pieces without sharp edges.

Please note however that although it is very strong, toughened glass is not shatterproof glass. In addition, it is possible to tip a glass fire guard over if a determined effort is made to do so. Where children are concerned, the use of any kind of fire guard can never be a substitute for proper supervision.

Stainless steel

Stainless steel is a specialised steel made from alloying iron with at least 10.5% chromium, plus other alloys to provide specific characteristics. Stainless steel is highly resistant to corrosion and does not discolour under normal usage (hence "stainless"). We use 304 grade stainless for the feet of our fire guards.

For more information about stainless steel visit the website of the British Stainless Steel Association at www.bssa.org and click on "Technical information".

Cleaning

The glass and feet may be cleaned with a damp lint free cloth then immediately dried with a clean lint free cloth to avoid smearing. If the fire guard or feet have become particularly dirty a small amount of detergent may be added to warm water and used to clean them using a damp lint free cloth. Again, they should then be immediately dried with a clean lint free cloth to avoid smearing.

A proprietary glass cleaner may also be used to clean the glass, but please ensure it is non-flammable.