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TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Permissible Load for Glass Shelves

The amount of weight or load that a glass shelf is able to safely handle is dependent upon many variables, such as the support mechanism used, the location of items placed upon the shelf, the glass thickness, and the distance or span between shelf supports. Typical glass shelves are supported along the extreme ends of the shelf, and some shelving systems incorporate intermediate supports for added strength.

Below is a guideline for use in choosing the proper glass thickness and the appropriate distance between supports. This guideline does not constitute a warranty of merchantability or fitness for any particular use. Results may vary from application to application. Probability of breakage is 3 in 1,000 when shelves are loaded to the maximum permissible load for a sustained period of time. This recommendation is based upon the use of monolithic, annealed glass.

Nominal Glass Thickness	Distance Between Supports				
	1 foot	2 feet	3 feet	4 feet	5 feet
	Permissible Load - Lbs./Ft^2				
3/16"	49.4	10.5	3.3	0.8	-
1/4"	73.5	15.9	5.3	1.5	-
3/8"	196.7	45.5	17.5	7.7	3.2
1/2"	345.4	81.4	32.6	15.4	7.5
5/8"	556.4	133.0	54.5	27.1	14.4
3/4"	817.3	197.0	82.1	41.9	23.3

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