Etched Glass or Decorative Window Film: Which One Should I Choose?

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The use of etched glass and decorative window film in new buildings and homes is on the rise and can now be applied to more than just your exterior windows.

Many property owners and homeowners are now applying them to the inside of their spaces. In most cases, they are utilized in conference rooms, cubicles, partitions, stairways, and shower doors. Using glass on the interior, as well as the exterior, allows natural light to flow throughout your space, increases employee productivity by eliminating visual barriers, and makes the overall environment feel larger.

In this article, we have highlighted the differences between etched glass and decorative window film to help you make a more informed decision before making your purchase. Let's explore the differences between the price, design options, installation, and maintenance.

Which option is more cost-effective?

The cost of etching, cutting, sandblasting, or texturing glass can be costly because it involves labor, materials, shipping, and installation. Once the order is placed, it cannot be changed without incurring additional costs. It's also expensive to replace etched glass if it ever gets broken. On the other hand, decorative film is much more affordable than etched glass because the cost of labor and materials are drastically less. Decorative window film is also much more cost-effective to ship than large, heavy sheets of etched glass.

Which option provides more creative flexibility?

People's taste and preferences change often. With decorative window film, you can easily remove the existing film without damaging the glass. Etched glass, however, is permanent. Once glass has been produced, it cannot be reverted to its original appearance.

Customizing etched glass can get pretty complicated. Unless you use an existing pattern, creating customized etched glass involves finding an experienced manufacturer who is familiar with glass etching techniques and has the equipment to complete your project. However, with decorative window film your options are unlimited. You have full control over the pattern, color, texture, and design.

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Which option is easier to install?

Etched glass installation is time-consuming and can be somewhat disruptive. Having the glass installed can distract your employees, which is not ideal for business owners. Window film, however, can be installed quickly and quietly.

Which option is easier to maintain?

Unlike decorative film, etched glass is quite vulnerable to fingerprints, stains, and dust accumulation. In addition, you will more than likely need specific cleaning supplies to properly maintain etched glass. Decorative film is durable, easy-to-clean, and does not require specialty cleaning supplies.

Conclusion

When choosing between etched glass and decorative window film, we highly recommend that you take the aforementioned differences into account. Unlike etched glass, window film allows you to be as creative as you like without breaking the bank. For more information, please contact our decorative window film experts today at 412-540-4615!

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