

ACRYLIC & FIBERGLASS

Reference and Installation Guide

Selecting the Proper Substrate

At Basco, we understand the shower is the centerpiece of your dream bathroom masterpiece. It is what has inspired us to craft the finest custom shower enclosures for decades, providing the ultimate finishing touch for your retreat.

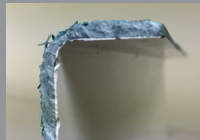
Selecting the proper substrate for your shower door is as important as selecting the enclosure itself, so it is with this in mind that we encourage our customers to understand the differences between acrylic and gel-coat/fiberglass and to consider which doors are appropriate for each application.



Acrylic
Material Sample



Gelcoat/Fiberglass
Material Sample



How Materials Impact Shower Door Options

Choosing the perfect material for your tub or shower is important when designing your dream bathroom. Today's acrylic and gel-coat fiberglass modules provide a variety of options to achieve the look you want and to enhance your bathing experience. Let's consider the differences and how your shower door choice is affected:

Acrylic:

- Acrylic is an extremely durable bath and shower material. With its strong acrylic surface and composite backing material, it's resistant to the rigors of everyday life — no cracks, no chips.
- Depending on use, acrylic may require less maintenance than other bath materials. Its non-porous surface makes cleaning with a non-abrasive cleanser simple and easy.
- Many modern acrylic modulars have structural ribs behind the base for additional support.
- Acrylic retains its color, luster and showroom condition longer. Because its color goes through the thickness of the material, it's resistant to dulling and fading.
- Acrylic warms and cools faster than other tub materials, so in a warm room, an acrylic tub is warm to the touch. During a bath, an acrylic tub will keep water warmer for a longer amount of time.
- **Acrylic modules that install straight to studs using screws are appropriate substrates for any 3/16" or 1/4" glass shower enclosure.**
- **Acrylic shower walls that install by gluing panels to drywall are not an appropriate substrate on which to install any shower door.**

Fiberglass:

- Gelcoat is short for "gel-coat fiberglass reinforced polyester," more popularly known as "fiberglass." The "gel-coating" is a thin layer of smooth, shiny material that lays on top of the fiberglass. It is what gives the material its smooth finish and its color. The fiberglass reinforced polyester lies beneath, and it is what gives the material its strength.
- Gelcoat bathing material is lightweight and easy to maneuver. For its weight, it is extremely strong, flexible and durable.
- With proper cleaning and upkeep, gelcoat tubs will keep their color and luster for a long time. Because gelcoat surfaces are slightly more porous than Acrylic surfaces, they can stain over time if not properly cleaned and maintained.
- **Gelcoat fiberglass modules that install straight to studs using screws are appropriate substrates for any 3/16" or 1/4" glass shower enclosure.**

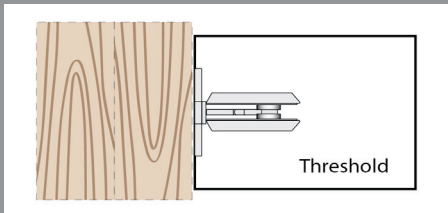


SHOWER ENCLOSURES

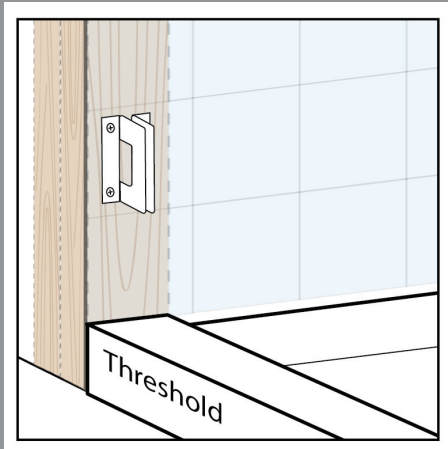
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Double 2 x 4 Stud

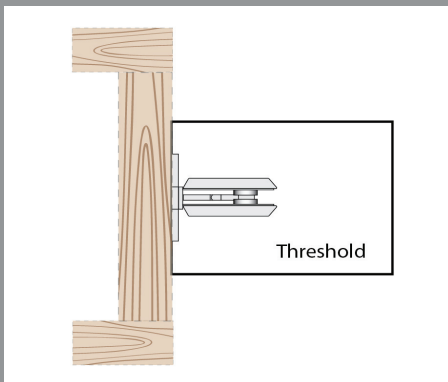


Aerial view of mounting point support.

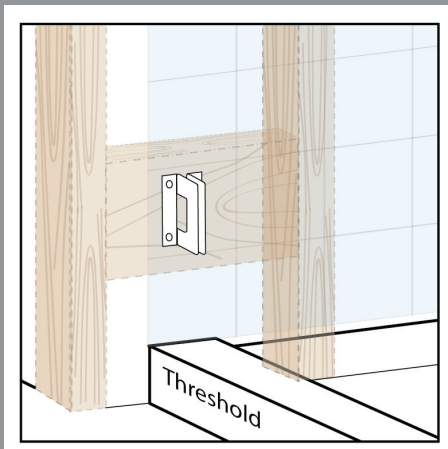


Bathroom perspective with structural reference.

Horizontal blocking between vertical studs



Aerial view of mounting point support.



Bathroom perspective with structural reference.

Heavy Glass Installation Guidelines for Fiberglass & Acrylic Fixtures

Our intent at Basco is to ensure that our customers have access to the products they desire based on their style and preferences. As such, please refer to these guidelines for installing heavy glass doors on fiberglass and acrylic substrates.

Structural Support Guidelines:

- A Roda door on acrylic or fiberglass requires proper blocking to ensure stability.
- A single 2 X 4 stud is needed behind the wall where the header meets the wall on top and bottom pivot units.
- A double 2 X 4 stud is needed behind the wall on the hinge side for wall mount hinges.
- A double 2 X 4 stud is needed at the threshold for hinge mounting and support of the weight.

Precautionary Guidelines:

- When the U-Channel or glass clamp is screwed into the threshold, the weight of the glass sits on top of the screws, necessitating the structural support.
- Without proper structural support, when the panel or door is moved this could cause the screws to move slightly. Over time, this slight movement enlarges the hole the screw is in and eventually cracks (spider webs) the gelcoat or acrylic and begins to break down the fiberglass backing.
- Acrylic or fiberglass walls have blocking installed by the manufacturer. However, the location of that backing may not match the location of where holes need to be drilled for vertical u-channel, wall mount hinges, and headers.
- Without proper backing behind the walls the door or panel(s) will eventually slip out of the thin walls.
- All structural elements of RODA doors must follow these guidelines. These elements include but are not limited to: hinges, headers, and clamps.
- Basco requires a minimum of 1-1/4" thread engagement of all fasteners into the blocking at any load bearing location. Depending on the application, the customer may be required to supply the proper fasteners to ensure adequate engagement.
- U-Channel may be secured into areas without blocking, excluding fiberglass and acrylic modules and/or bases, when wall plugs are used. Fiberglass and/or acrylic modules require proper blocking in all locations, including a u-channel.
- Metal studs or strapping are not acceptable substitutes for securing load-bearing hardware.
- Always refer to local building code. Local building code may supersede Basco's requirements. Basco's requirements are to be regarded as minimum requirements.

Sources/References:

<https://walkintubs.americanstandard-us.com/safety-tubs/acrylic-vs-fiberglass/>
<http://www.aquabath.com/datasheets/Acrylic%20vs.%20Gel-Coat%20Fiberglass.pdf>
<http://literature.sterlingplumbing.com/data/svm15flx/011/html/export.pdf>

HEAVY GLASS MODELS for FIBERGLASS and ACRYLIC

Rotolo Semi-Frameless Bypass Rolling Doors

- Bypass panels - both panels slide in the enclosure
- Sleek, modern header with visible top rollers
- 3/8" heavy glass
- Single exterior towel bar and one back-to-back knob
- Easy, reversible installation for left or right entry
- Required threshold width is 2³/₄"
- Standard model - RTLA-905, custom model - RTLH-905



Coppia Adjustable Single Swing or Swing Door & Panel

- Up to 1" adjustment on the single swing (1/2" on hinge side, 1/2" on handle side)
- Up to 1 1/2" adjustment on the door and panel (1" on the panel side, 1/2" on the hinge side)
- 3/8" heavy glass
- 8" through-the-glass handle
- Door swings out only
- Easy, reversible installation for left or right entry
- Single swing model - COPA-900*
- Door & panel model - COPA-935*



Fusion 1/4" Glass Swing Door & 3/8" Glass Panel

- 1/4" glass swing door with 3/8" glass panel is also available with an additional 3/8" glass return panel
- Clean, headerless design
- 6" through-the-glass handle
- Door swings out only
- Easy, reversible installation for left or right entry
- Door & panel standard model - 1435A*, custom model - 1435*
- Door, panel and return panel model - 1450*



Celesta Semi-Frameless Bypass Sliding Doors

- Bypass panels - both panels slide in the enclosure
- Popular tub and shower heights
- Rounded, modern header
- 3/8" heavy glass
- Dual through-the-glass towel bars
- Easy, reversible installation
- Tub height standard model - 2850A/CELA-2850, custom model - CELH-2850
- Shower height standard model - 3850A/CELA-3850, custom model - CELH-3850



**For these models, additional structural support is not required, but is still highly recommended.*