

How do I measure an area for glass or mirrors correctly?

Measuring for a mirror wall or glass splashback can be fairly straight forward.

If you follow our simple guidelines you can be sure your glass and mirrors will fit perfectly.

A basic mirrored wall -

- Firstly use a spirit level to check the walls, floor/skirting and any surfaces next to the mirrors are straight and level.
- If the skirting/ floor is not level it will show when the mirrors are erected. If the walls are not flat the mirrors will not reflect in unison and thinner substrate such as 4mm mirror may “flex” when using adhesive. In such instances where the floor/skirting is not level or the walls are not flat you may need to do some remedial work prior to fitting the mirrors. This may include skimming the wall or erecting new plasterboard or putting new skirting on.
- If you are looking to go wall to wall with the mirrors and the walls themselves are not square we can make the end mirrors with sloping edges and achieve the desired results you are looking to achieve. Alternatively you can choose to leave a space either end of the wall of mirrors rather than taking it fully to the wall. To check whether the walls are square measure the width and height with a tape measure at three points – each end both top and bottom and also at the middle. This should generate three measurements. For height we recommend the same measurement system.
- You should take off 2mm to allow for the tolerance of the glass as the glass can vary in size by 2mm, so this will ensure it is not too big to fit a gap.
- When using aluminium J channels for hanging mirrors leave a tolerance on the height of 20mm to cover the oversize rebate of the top channel. There is no requirement for allowances when the mirrors are next to each other.
- **Last but not least ALWAYS double check your measurements.** Once the mirrors or glass are manufactured to size they cannot be changed.

How do I measure for cut outs?

- If you need socket holes measuring correctly this depends on how competent at DIY you are. The easiest method is to measure from the bottom edge and then either one side – left or right. You can then provide a simple sketch with your measurements and email it to us. However it is vital you get this right so please take your time and measure at least two or three times.
- Another method which is less prone to error but more time consuming is to template in 6mm mdf or plywood. Certainly any complex shapes will need such a template if we are not measuring as part of our installation services. If you cut your template and hang on site prior to sending to us you can be sure it fits and be confident we will deliver “exactly” the same sizes as we scan these templates into our CNC machines. It may take more time but it will ensure no disappointment further down the line.
- Remember when measuring around sockets that your sockets can either fit on top of the glass or inside the cut out itself. You need to decide which option to choose and make allowances for this. Typically an electrical back box is 70mm x 70mm for a single socket but the socket itself can be up to 90mm x 90mm. The back box for a double socket is typically 130mm x 70mm. For a tidy finish when sitting the sockets in top of the glass all electrical sockets should be removed during the templating process. It may be safer to use an electrician for this. This will allow your mirror or glass to fit neatly behind your sockets leaving no visible gaps. Of course a further option is to get a joiner to make your templates.
- When glass meets at corners allow 8mm (including the glue behind) for overlaps for 6mm glass and allow 6mm for 4mm thick glass. When doing a gym or dance studio we do not recommend this.



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How do I measure an area for glass or mirrors correctly?

How to measure exact tolerances where size tolerance is critical – for example glass splashbacks?

- Generally if you are looking for exacting tolerances we recommend booking one of our site engineers to measure using our laser CAD measuring system. This system allows us to draw and measure your areas accurately. If your walls are out of line or units and worktops have been fitted 2mm out of level or indeed plumb our measuring systems will identify this. Accuracy minimises the use of silicon during the installation phases and any measurements taken can be sent from site directly into our CNC machines with a WIFI connection. We will then cut and polish your glass requirements exactly to the sizes generated. This service is £170 + VAT
- We recommend using our CAD measuring level of service for kitchen glass splashbacks which often have shapes, cut outs and angles to consider. Cooker splashbacks have less to consider and usually are square. For shaped cooker hoods simply take a measurement for the height from the middle point on the hood and reduce 4mm for expansion providing the cooker make and model number. We take it from there.
- If you are confident in your ability to take accurate measurements then first draw a horizontal line on your wall 3mm above your worktop using a spirit level.
- Mark further lines at right angles to this line where you plan each splashback/upstand to start and end. If your cooker splashback is to fit between 2 units or other surfaces, mark the lines 2mm in from each surface.
- You must leave a 3mm expansion gap where the glass meets another surface (wall, worktop, cooker hood). Where two glass panels meet each other, no expansion gap is necessary.
- If mirrors or splashbacks/ upstands meet at a corner then ensure you also allow an additional 6mm for glass thickness and adhesive depth for one of the pieces (so if 2 pieces meet at a corner, one piece should stop 8-9mm short of the wall to allow for the other piece and an expansion gap- the other piece should be the full distance to the wall minus 2mm).
- Next, check your measurements by adding the splashback widths together and add on your expansion gap widths. The total width should match the width of your wall.
- A further check is to get someone else to measure and if your figures aren't the same measure again. It is very important to get them right before ordering your glass as toughened glass cannot be re-cut.
- **MEASURE, CHECK, GET SOMEONE ELSE TO CHECK AND THEN MEASURE AND CHECK AGAIN.**



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