

GOLDEN RULES FOR EASIFIX INSTALLATION

Golden rules - essential guidelines that need to be considered prior to preparation of the opening and before beginning installation of glass blocks.

- ✓ Glass block walls are self supporting, but not load bearing. Therefore similar to doors and windows, support above should be provided in the form of a lintel.
- ✓ For best integral strength, glass blocks should be installed into a four sided pre-prepared opening. This opening can be timber, brick, steel, concrete or blockwork.
- ✓ Glass blocks expand and contract with temperature change. Then Easifix system allows for its own expansion and contraction because the extrusion is manufactured from exterior grade PVC and blocks are bonded together using silicone with high elasticity properties.
- ✓ Glass blocks should not be installed when the surrounding temperature is 5°C and falling or 30°C and rising.
- ✓ Openings must be square and perpendicular and made to suit glass block modules. It is important to remember that glass blocks should not be cut like masonry bricks or tiles.
- ✓ A glass block panel should never be freestanding. To secure panel into opening using Easifix, stainless steel anchor brackets and horizontal Easifix spacer, placed on every row acts as reinforcement.
- ✓ Maximum panel size recommended when constructing with Easifix for internal use only up to 9m². (Vertical dimension not to exceed 3m).
- ✓ Easifix cannot be used in fire rated situations.
- ✓ Easifix can only be used for straight walls in conjunction with 80mm glass blocks.



EASIFIX ACCESSORIES

EASIFIX EXTRUSION

The Easifix extrusion is designed to replicate the profile of a mortar joint where the hollow of two glass blocks meet. Easifix spacers are manufactured in 2 lengths : 2.4m - horizontal and 185mm (nominal) - vertical.



Easifix extrusion (highlighted) is placed between blocks and held with two, 5mm beads of silicone.

EASIFIX ANCHOR BRACKETS

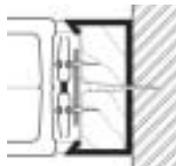
Two number Easifix anchor brackets are used, one at each end of each course and locate into the Easifix extrusion, holding each horizontal spacer in place.



Easifix anchor bracket

EASIFIX SLEEVE

Easifix sleeve is a UPVC U channel which accommodates a timber insert and is used around the perimeter edge of an Easifix glass block panel.



e.g. Easifix direct to End post (no sleeve)
4 pilot holes per anchor bracket need to be pre-drilled.
4 holes per anchor bracket x 11 blocks high x 2 sides = 88 pre-drilled holes.
Hence Easifix sleeve!

If Easifix is fitted into a timber stud wall and a clean line between the blocks and the plasterboard is required, it is permissible to screw the anchor brackets directly to the timber.



CALCULATING OPENING SIZES

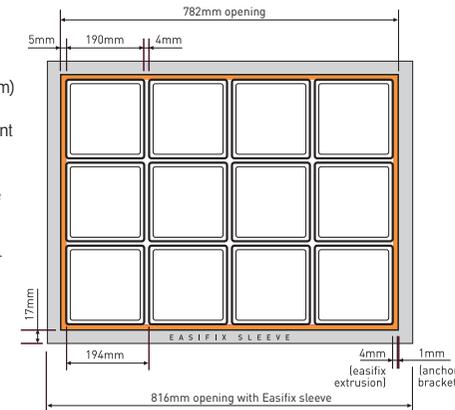
Calculating the opening size accurately is essential because glass blocks should not be cut like masonry bricks or tiles.

The diagram demonstrates the principle of how to calculate an opening size based on using 190x190x80mm glass blocks and 4mm joints. The Easifix extrusion is designed to create glass block panels with a minimum joint width.

The perimeter joint will be approximately 5mm and the diagram and photographic step by step guide shows the use of easifix sleeve, which is 22mm deep.

Calculating opening sizes (Horizontal dimension)

- Take the width of the block (eg. 190mm)
- Add the width of the vertical spacer joint (4mm)
- Multiply by the number of blocks in the horizontal course (eg 4 No.)
- Add one more joint width (6mm) as for 4 blocks you will have 5 joints
- The final joint dimension is 6mm. This allows for 5mm at vertical end (4mm spacer and 1mm anchor bracket). The remaining 1mm (anchor bracket) to be added to the opposite vertical Easifix joint of 4mm.



Calculating opening sizes (Vertical dimension)

- Take the width of the block (eg. 190mm)
- Add the width of the horizontal spacer joint (4mm)
- Multiply by the number of blocks in the vertical course (eg 3 No.)
- Add one more joint width (6mm) as for 3 blocks you will have 4 joints
- The final joint dimension is 6mm. In the case of the vertical height, no anchor brackets are used. The 6mm allows a slight tolerance to allow easier positioning of the top horizontal row of glass blocks.

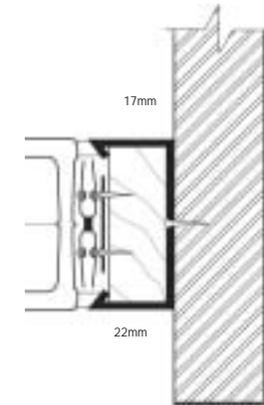
EXAMPLE 1: Using 4mm joints

190mm glass block :	190
4mm joint :	+ 4
	194
Number of blocks :	x 4
	776
Add fifth joint of 6mm:	6
Opening size :	782mm

Using Easifix sleeve

As above but add a further 17mm to each end (the thickness of the sleeve) + (2 x 17mm)

Opening size with Easifix sleeve:	816mm
-----------------------------------	-------



Easifix to sleeve connection

EXAMPLE 2: Using 4mm joints

190mm glass block :	190
4mm joint :	+ 4
	194
Number of blocks :	x 3
	582
Add fourth joint of 6mm:	6
Opening size :	588mm

If using easifix sleeve add 17mm to each end resulting in an additional overall dimension of 34mm to be added to the required perimeter opening size.