



*Car windscreens, shop and office doors, cooktops, oven doors and tableware are examples of products made from toughened glass, a product that is much stronger than normal glass.*



## How is it made?

Glass is heated to a very high temperature, then cooled suddenly by subjecting it to cold compressed air. This causes a thin layer of the surface of the glass to be compressed, making it very strong.

## Strength and durability

Toughened glass has the following advantages over normal glass:

- Greater resistance to physical shocks
- Greater resistance to high or rapid changes in temperature
- Can be expected to last longer

## Spontaneous shattering

While toughened glass is strong it is not unbreakable. If the outer surface is weakened by a chip or a scratch, a fault can develop that may cause the article to unexpectedly shatter into many small pieces. Normally these pieces are smaller and less

sharp than normal glass splinters.

The chances of cutting or piercing injuries are minimised. Breakage of toughened glass is similar to that of a shattered windscreen.

## Noise factor

Toughened glass makes an extremely loud noise when it breaks. This may cause considerable surprise, but is harmless. Ordinary glass breaks more easily, but without a loud noise.

## Conclusion

There is no evidence to suggest that breakage of toughened glass causes serious injury or death. A product ban or recall is inappropriate because of the large range of products made from toughened glass and because the number of items that shatter is a very small proportion of the total sold.

### **Need more information?**

**Call Consumer Affairs Victoria Helpline on 1300 55 81 81**

## Further reading

Consumer Affairs Victoria has a range of Product Safety related factsheets:

- Baby walker safety
- Bunk bed safety
- Choosing a cot
- Laser pointers
- Toy safety checklist
- Toys for children under three
- Supplying safe cots

## More information

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Information on Product Safety is available from:

**Consumer Affairs Victoria**

452 Flinders Street

Melbourne 3000

Telephone 1300 55 81 81

Website [www.consumer.vic.gov.au](http://www.consumer.vic.gov.au)

The information contained in this fact sheet is of a general nature only and should not be regarded as a substitute for a reference to the legislation or professional advice.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 452 Flinders Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000.