

# PITTSBURGH CORNING

**PROVantage™**  
GLASS BLOCK INSTALLATION SYSTEM

## ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS



**PITTSBURGH  
CORNING**  
GLASS BLOCK®  
[www.pittsburghcorning.com](http://www.pittsburghcorning.com)

## Introduction

The ProVantage™ Glass Block Installation System is the easiest way to install Pittsburgh Corning **Premiere Series Glass Block and Finishing Units (ARQUE®, HEDRON®, TRIDRON® and EndBlock™)** and get professional results. Now you can build **straight walls, curved walls and step-down partitions** with glass block.

## 1. General Information

- ProVantage™ Glass Block Installation System is designed for use with Pittsburgh Corning **Premiere Series** (4" thick) Glass Block only.
- Interior Panel:
  - No larger than 85 sq. ft. framed on at least three sides.
  - No larger than 60 sq. ft. framed on at least two sides.
- Exterior panels must be no larger than 50 sq.ft. and framed on all four sides.
- The grout finish can be used on all panels that have at least two sides supported.
- The sealant finish can only be used in straight walls that are supported on four sides. Sealant finish is not recommended for shower applications.
- Perimeter channels (in lieu of anchors) can be used in straight walls that are supported on four sides.
- All glass block panels are non-load bearing, so adequate provisions must be made for support of construction around the panel.

## 2. Tools Required

- Miter saw, metal snips, hand saw, screw driver, razor knife, rubber mallet, four-foot level, caulk gun and rubber gloves.
- For grouted joints only, you need a rubber float, bucket, tile/grout sponge and cheese cloth.

## 3. Materials Required

- **Pittsburgh Corning Premiere Series Glass Block**
- **ProVantage™ Glass Block Installation System:**  
*(Specific materials required will vary depending upon your project size and design.)*
  - **Horizontal Spacers** are sold in 40" long pieces.
  - **Vertical Spacers** are pre-cut for use with eight-inch glass blocks and sold in packs of 10.
  - **ARQUE® Spacers** are sold in packs of five (four pre-assembled ARQUE® horizontal spacers and one unassembled ARQUE® horizontal spacer that comes in two halves) with seven ARQUE® vertical spacers.
  - **HEDRON® Spacers** are sold in packs of five (four pre-assembled HEDRON® horizontal spacers and one unassembled HEDRON® horizontal spacer that comes in two halves) with 10 flat vertical spacers.

- TRIDRON® Spacers are sold in packs of five (four pre-assembled TRIDRON® horizontal spacers and one unassembled TRIDRON® horizontal spacer that comes in two halves) with 10 flat vertical spacers.
- Wall Anchors are sold in packs that include five Anchors, 10 Fasteners and 20 Shims.
- ProVantage™ Glass Block Surface Grout is sold in 15 pound buckets.
- Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block Sealant
- Grout Sealer (for grouted joints only)

## 4. Estimating Guide for ProVantage™ Spacers and Accessories

### For Glass Block Panels Framed on Two Sides

The largest panel you can build framed on two sides is 60 sq. ft. or 10 – 8" blocks by 13 – 8" blocks.

- ARQUE® Horizontal spacers, HEDRON® Horizontal spacers and TRIDRON® Horizontal spacers = Total number of shaped blocks (vertical spacers are packed with horizontal spacers). If your glass block panel has only one or two columns of ARQUE® glass blocks you will need to purchase extra ARQUE® spacer packs.
- ProVantage™ Horizontal Spacers = Total number of regular glass blocks plus the total number of EndBlocks™, divided by five.
- ProVantage™ Vertical Spacers = Total number of regular glass blocks.
- ProVantage™ Wall Anchors = Number of glass blocks in one column (height).
- Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block Sealant = Total number of glass blocks divided by seven.
- ProVantage™ Glass Block Surface Grout (White) = Total number of glass blocks divided by eighty.

### For Glass Block Panels Framed on Three or Four Sides

If your panel is framed on three sides or four sides, calculate the materials needed as stated above. You will then need to purchase additional vertical spacers, horizontal spacers and wall anchors. To calculate how many more you'll need, count the number of blocks in one column (vertically) and purchase that many more vertical spacers and wall anchors. Then count the number of blocks in one row, divide that number by five – that equals the number of additional ProVantage™ horizontal spacers that you will need.

## Construction of Straight Walls

Perimeter Channel may be used in this installation instead of wall anchors. If using perimeter channels, use Table 2, Sec.5(b) to determine rough opening size. For straight walls using wall anchors, use Table 1, to determine rough opening size.

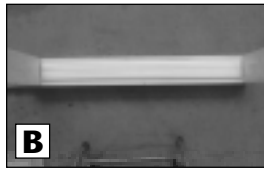
**TABLE 1. Premiere Series Glass Block (Wall Anchor Construction)**

Number of Blocks	Rough Opening Size (Inches)		
	Rough Opening Width and Height		
	4" Wide Block	6" Wide Block	8" Wide Block
<b>1</b>	4 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	6 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	8 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
<b>2</b>	8 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	12 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	16 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
<b>3</b>	12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	24 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
<b>4</b>	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	24 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	32 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
<b>5</b>	20	30	40
<b>6</b>	23 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	35 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	47 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
<b>7</b>	27 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	41 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	55 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
<b>8</b>	31 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	47 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	63 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
<b>9</b>	35 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	53 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	71 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
<b>10</b>	39 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	59 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	79 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub>
<b>11</b>	43 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	65 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	87 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
<b>12</b>	47 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	71 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	95 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>

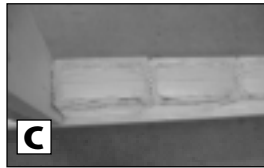
*Notes: Blocks are available in 4" x 8", 6" x 6", 6" x 8", and 8" x 8" sizes.  
For larger panels add 3 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" for each additional 4" wide block...  
add 5 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" for each additional 6" wide block...add 7 <sup>7</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" for each additional 8" wide block.*

### 5(a).Preparing the Opening (For Straight Walls using Wall Anchors)

- Build the rough opening (Table 1). We recommend that you construct a curb (base) as wide or wider than the thickness of the glass block (Illus. A). The curb will help protect the bottom course of blocks from damage from vacuum cleaners, mops, wet environments, etc.



- Horizontal Spacers are needed under the first row of blocks. Cut the horizontal spacer 1/4" shorter than the length of the rough opening (Illus. B).

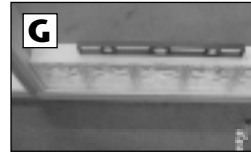


- Temporarily install the first course of blocks on the curb on top of the horizontal spacer. Insert 8" vertical spacers between the blocks. Note that vertical spacers are also installed at the beginning and end of the framed wall (Illus. C).

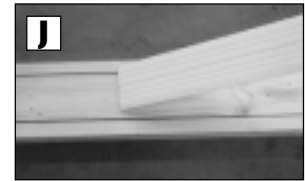
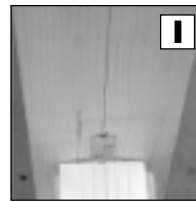


- Use a level to ensure that the glass blocks and opening are straight, plumb and level. If necessary, use the shims packed with the wall anchors to level the first course of blocks (Illus. D).

- Metal wall anchors are installed in every course. Insert a wall anchor into each hollow end of the horizontal spacer (Illus. E). Place the spacer on top of the leveled first course of blocks with the upturned end of the anchors touching the jambs (Illus. F).



- Make sure the blocks and horizontal spacer are level and straight (Illus. G).
- Place a mark on the jambs in the V notch at the top of both anchors (Illus. H).
- From these marks, draw a vertical plumb line up each jamb to the top of the glass block wall (Illus. I).
- Carefully remove the glass blocks and mark the location of the bottom horizontal spacer on the curb. If shims were used mark their location too (Illus. J).



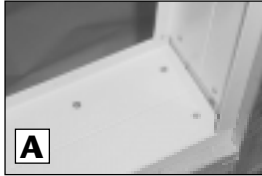
### 5(b). Preparing the Opening (For Straight Walls using Perimeter Channel)

- Prepare the rough opening where the panel will be located. Make opening plumb and square to dimensions shown in Table 2.

**TABLE 2. Premiere Series Glass Block  
(Perimeter Channel Construction)**

Number of Blocks	Rough Opening Size (Inches)		
	Rough Opening Width and Height		
	4" Wide Block	6" Wide Block	8" Wide Block
<b>1</b>	4 1/8	6 1/8	8 1/8
<b>2</b>	8	12	16
<b>3</b>	11 7/8	17 7/8	23 7/8
<b>4</b>	15 3/4	23 3/4	31 3/4
<b>5</b>	19 5/8	29 5/8	39 5/8
<b>6</b>	23 1/2	35 1/2	47 1/2
<b>7</b>	27 3/8	41 3/8	55 3/8
<b>8</b>	31 1/4	47 1/4	63 1/4
<b>9</b>	35 1/8	53 1/8	71 1/8
<b>10</b>	39	59	79
<b>11</b>	42 7/8	64 7/8	86 7/8
<b>12</b>	46 3/4	70 3/4	94 3/4

Note: Blocks are available in 4" x 8", 6" x 6", 6" x 8", and 8" x 8" sizes



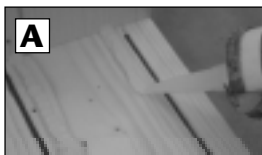
- Cut the perimeter channels to length to fit the bottom, top, and both sides of the opening (Illus. A). These may be cut square or mitered. Apply two  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beads of sealant on underside of channels horizontally  $\frac{1}{2}$ " from both sides. Use #6 x 1" flat head galvanized screws to attach the channels to the bottom and two sides of the opening, using the holes provided. Use two screws to fasten each end. If you cut off the predrilled holes when trimming the length, simply drill new ones at each end of the cut piece. Paint the screw heads white to reduce their visibility.
- So that the last row of Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block units can be installed easily, cut the top perimeter channel in half lengthwise with a utility knife. Apply one bead of sealant. Install that half of the channel at the top of opening (Illus. B).
- Cut the horizontal spacers for each course to fit inside the vertical perimeter channels. Save the short pieces.
- Vertical spacers are supplied pre-cut to length for use with 8" blocks. If the blocks you are using are less than eight inches, cut spacers to size.

## 6. Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block Sealant

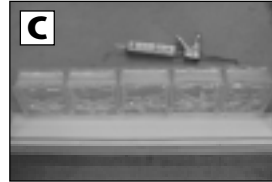
- Follow the instructions on the glass block sealant tube to open the tube. One tube contains enough sealant to set approximately seven blocks. The sealant skins over in about 15 minutes. Do not apply sealant to more blocks than you can install in 10 minutes. If the sealant starts to skin over, scrape it off and re-apply a fresh bead.

### 7(a). Glass Block Assembly (For Straight Walls using Wall Anchors)

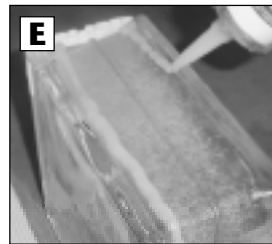
- Apply two  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beads of sealant on top of the curb  $\frac{1}{4}$ " inside the lines where the horizontal spacer was positioned (Illus. A). Re-install the horizontal spacer; if you used shims, reposition them (Illus. B).



- Line up the blocks that fit on the horizontal spacer (Illus. C). The first block will need an 8" vertical spacer applied to its vertical side that meets the jamb. Apply a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dab of sealant behind the raised edge of the glass block face  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the four corners. Press the spacer into place (Illus. D).



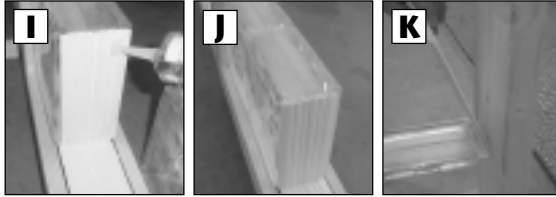
- Apply two  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beads of sealant across the top of the first course of blocks (Illus. E). Next, apply four  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter dabs of sealant to the 8" vertical spacer stuck to the side of the block; position the dabs  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the four corners (Illus. F).



- Install the first block on top of the horizontal spacer with the vertical spacer facing the side jamb, and the sealant side down against the curb (Illus. G). Apply  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dab of sealant behind the raised edge of the glass block face  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the four corners, then press another vertical spacer into place (Illus. H).



- Apply four  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter dabs of sealant to the 8" vertical spacer  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the four corners (Illus. I). Install the second glass block (Illus. J). Repeat these same procedures for all glass blocks except the last block. Do not apply sealant to the side connected to the jamb. Slide spacer between the last block and the side jamb (Illus. K).

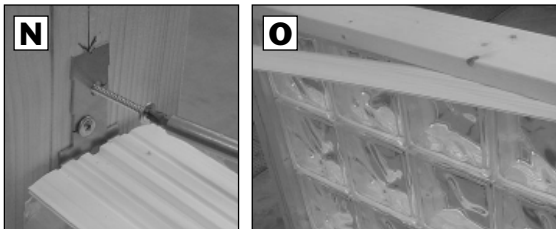


#### Installing second row –

- Apply two  $\frac{1}{4}$ " beads of sealant across the top of the first course of blocks (Illus. L). Next install a horizontal spacer with an anchor inserted in each end (Illus. M).



- Align the V notch of the anchors with the level vertical plumb lines previously drawn on the jambs and attach the anchors with screws from the anchor pack (Illus. N). Repeat process for every course except the top course, do not apply sealant to the top of these blocks. Make sure to screw anchors at every horizontal course until the wall is completely assembled. For panels framed at the top, slide the horizontal spacer into position if space permits (Illus. O).

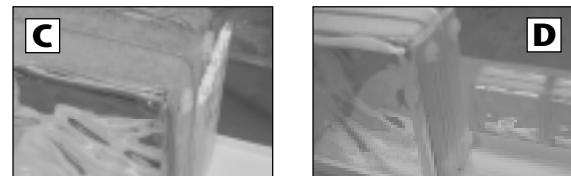


- Check one final time with a 4-foot level to make sure the wall is straight, level and plumb. If necessary, use a rubber mallet to gently tap the wall into alignment (Illus. P). Once satisfied with the final alignment, then let sealant dry overnight.

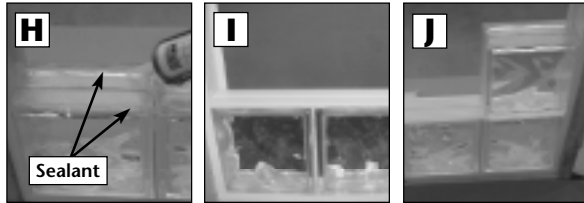


## 7(b). Glass Block Assembly (For Straight Walls using Perimeter Channel)

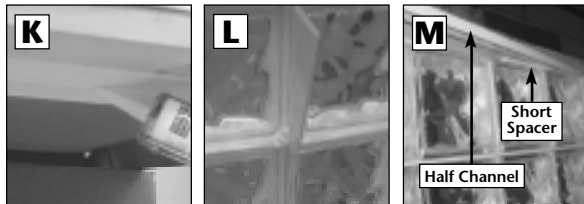
- Follow the instructions on the glass block sealant tube to open the tube. Coverage rate is one tube per seven (7) blocks. Cut the tip of the tube on a 45° angle at the  $\frac{1}{4}$ " mark. The sealant skins over in 15-17 minutes. Don't apply sealant to more glass blocks than can be installed in 10 minutes.
- Line up the blocks for the first course. Apply two beads of sealant into the sill channel the full length (Illus. A). Slide one block into the left jamb (Illus. B). Apply a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " dab of sealant behind the raised edge of the glass block face  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the four corners. Press spacers into place (Illus. C). Apply four  $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter dabs of sealant to the vertical spacer attached to the side of the block; position the dabs  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in from the four corners (Illus. D). Install the next block (Illus. E). Repeat these procedures for all blocks except the last block. Do not apply sealant on the last vertical spacer (Illus. F). Slide the last block into position.



- Inspect each joint for alignment of the spacer. Align this course of blocks between both jambs. You may need to tap a wedge into the right or left jamb to center the course. Remove the wedge (Illus. G).
- Apply a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " bead of sealant on the row of blocks behind the raised edge of the glass block face on both sides of the blocks (Illus. H).



- Place the horizontal spacer on top of the first row of glass blocks (Illus. I). Remove any excess sealant. Adjust size of beads of sealant to prevent squeeze out (keep joint areas clean). If it's necessary to have a joint in the end of the horizontal spacer to extend it, cut the spacer so that the joint is under a vertical spacer. Stagger these horizontal joints from end to end on each proceeding row of glass blocks.

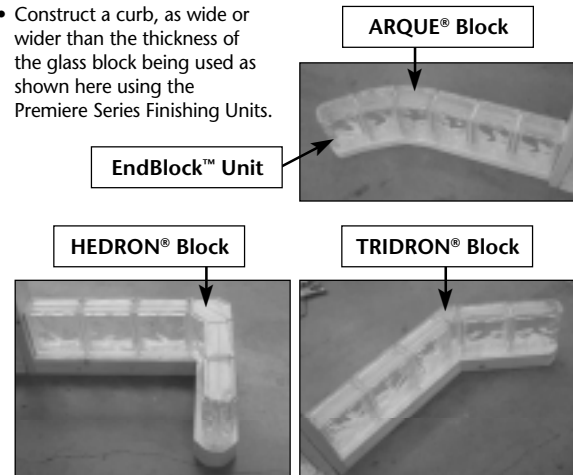


- Line up enough glass blocks to complete the next course. Apply two beads of sealant (Illus. J), and install these blocks the same as the first course starting at the right jamb.
- Repeat these same procedures for all courses, except the top course.
- For the top course, first apply a 1/4" bead of sealant horizontally along the top inside leg of the half channel where the glass block face butts (Illus.K).
- Slide one block (with sealant applied), into the right jamb and one into the left jamb. Install the remaining blocks but do not apply sealant on spacer in the last, vertical joint. Slide the vertical spacer into position (Illus. L).
- If space permits, slide **short** pieces cut from the horizontal spacers into the gap between top of blocks and half-channel previously installed.
- Apply a 1/4" bead of sealant horizontally across the top of the rough opening (1/2" from exposed edge).
- Then apply a 1/4" bead of sealant horizontally across the top inside edge of the other half of channel and slide it into place wedging it between the spacer and the top of the rough opening (Illus.M). You may need a piece of tape to hold the channel in place until the sealant sets.

## 8. Prepare the Opening For Walls with Finishing Units:

(Pittsburgh Corning Premiere Series Finishing Units ARQUE®, HEDRON®, TRIDRON® and EndBlock™)

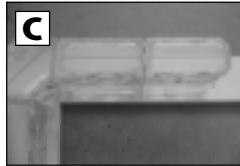
- Construct a curb, as wide or wider than the thickness of the glass block being used as shown here using the Premiere Series Finishing Units.



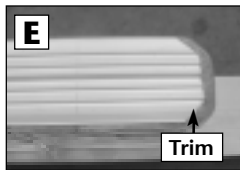
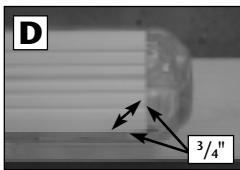
- Use a miter saw to cut the horizontal spacers for the straight sections of your wall.
- To determine the length of the horizontal spacer for glass blocks set between the jamb and a finishing unit, or for glass blocks set between two finishing units (Illus. A & B). Add the nominal sizes of the glass blocks, then subtract one quarter inch (three, eight inch glass blocks =  $24" - 1/4" = 23 \frac{3}{4}"$ ).



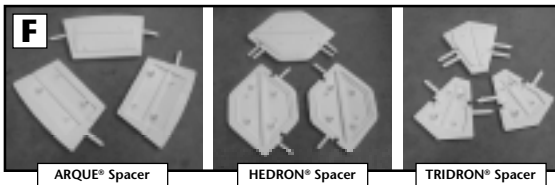
- If you have an EndBlock™ connected to a course of glass blocks (Illus. C): add the nominal sizes of all of the blocks minus one inch (one eighth inch glass blocks + one eighth inch EndBlock =  $16'' - 1'' = 15''$ ).



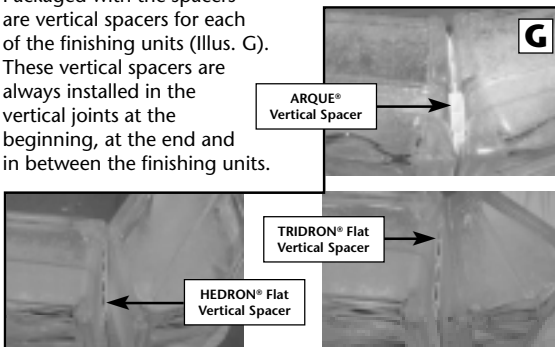
- To cut the horizontal spacers to fit the curve of the EndBlock™, trim off the two front corners at 45-degrees,  $\frac{3}{4}''$  from each corner (Illus. D).



- Use tin snips or a hand saw to cut the spacer to length. Some additional trimming may be needed to fit the spacer behind the edge of the EndBlock™ (Illus. E).
- The packages of horizontal spacers for the finishing units (ARQUE®, HEDRON®, TRIDRON®) have one unassembled spacer, that comes in two halves (Illus. F). Half spacers are installed under each finishing unit in the first course of two blocks. And, if the glass block wall is framed on top, half spacers are attached to the top course of finishing units. Make sure you have enough half spacers for your project. Any extra half spacers can be assembled to form whole spacers by snapping the two halves together completely using a rubber mallet, if needed.



- Packaged with the spacers are vertical spacers for each of the finishing units (Illus. G). These vertical spacers are always installed in the vertical joints at the beginning, at the end and in between the finishing units.



- Temporarily install the first course of glass blocks on the curb with the horizontal spacers and 8" vertical spacers in position (Illus. H).



- Cut off the barbed tabs from the horizontal half spacer (Illus. I).



- Install the finishing unit with vertical flat spacers and a half spacer with its tabs removed (Illus. J).



- Lay a horizontal spacer on the curb. Next, install a flat vertical spacer (Illus. K).



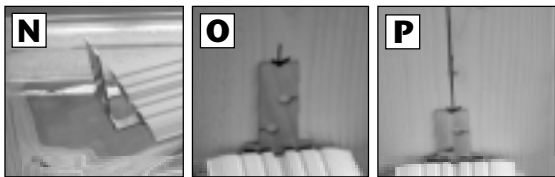
- Install the remaining blocks with the vertical spacers in the joints (Illus. L).



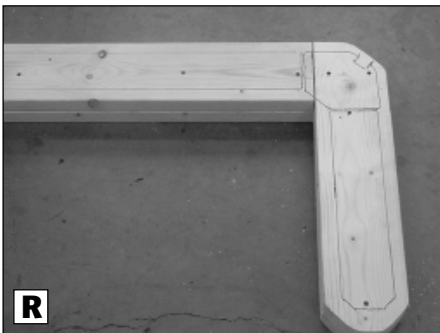
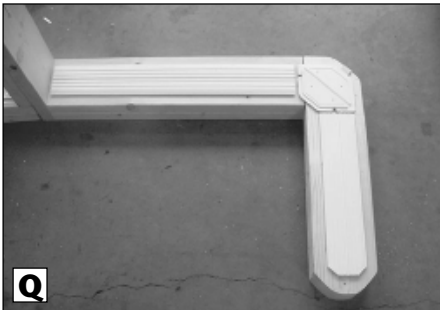
- If your wall is framed on only one end, you will need to temporarily prop up a 2 x 4 stud from the curb to the ceiling at the open end of the wall (Illus. M). This stud serves as a temporary plumb point for you to follow as you set the blocks. Use a level to ensure the glass blocks and opening are straight, plumb and level.



- Metal wall anchors are installed in every course. Insert a wall anchor into the hollow end of the horizontal spacers (Illus. N).
- Place the spacer on top of the leveled first course of blocks with the upturned end of the anchors touching the jamb (Illus. O). Make a pencil mark against the jambs at the V notch in each anchor.
- Next, at these marks, draw a plumb line up the jamb to the top of the glass block wall (Illus. P).

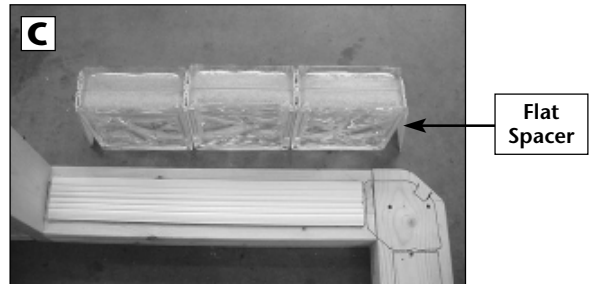
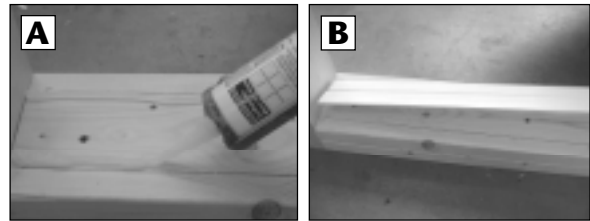


- Carefully remove all the glass blocks from curb (Illus. Q).
- Mark the location of the horizontal spacers and half spacers on the curb. If shims were used mark their locations, too (Illus. R).



## 9. Glass Block Assembly of Wall with Finishing Units

- Apply two 1/4" beads of sealant on top of the curb 1/4" inside the lines where the horizontal spacer was positioned (Illus. A).
- Then, reinstall the horizontal spacer, pressing it down into the sealant (Illus. B).
- Line up the blocks that fit on the horizontal spacer (Illus. C). Install these blocks following the procedures described in Step 8(a): Glass Block Assembly. Stop after setting the last block before the finishing unit, which in this case is a HEDRON® Block.

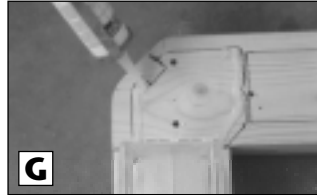


- Apply 1/2" dab of sealant behind the raised edge of the glass block face 1/2" in from the four corners, then press a flat vertical spacer into place (Illus. D).
- Apply a 1/4" bead of sealant around the raised impression on the half spacer (Illus. E).
- Press a half spacer onto the bottom of HEDRON® Block (Illus. F)

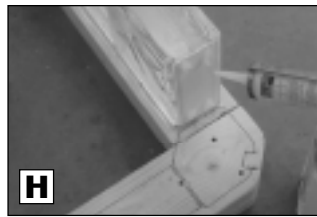




- Apply a 1/4" bead of sealant around the inside perimeter of the half spacer markings on the curb (Illus. G).



- Apply four 1/2" dabs of sealant to the flat spacer stuck to the side of the block (Illus. H).



- Press the HEDRON® Block down onto the curb (Illus. I).



- Apply a flat vertical spacer with four 1/2" dabs of sealant to the remaining side of the HEDRON® Block. Lay two 1/4" beads of sealant on top of the curb 1/4" inside the lines where the horizontal spacer was positioned (Illus. J).



- Press the horizontal spacer down onto the curb (Illus. K).



- Install the remaining straight glass block in the course, with vertical spacers in between. Install an EndBlock™, and the temporary 2 x 4 stud (Illus. L). Use a level to ensure the glass blocks, 2 x 4 and opening are straight, plumb and level.



- Follow the procedures in Step 6 to install the horizontal spacer and anchors.

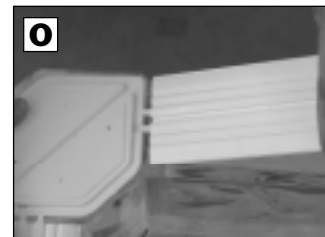


- Apply a 1/4" bead of sealant around the top perimeter of the finishing unit (Illus. M).

- Next install the HEDRON® full spacer, sliding its barbs into the hollow end of the horizontal spacer (Illus. N).



- Apply sealant to the tops of the blocks and install the horizontal spacer sliding it onto the barbs of the HEDRON® spacer (Illus. O).



- Press the horizontal spacer down into position (Illus. P).



- Repeat this process for every course making sure to install the appropriate vertical spacers at the beginning, at the end and in between the finishing units. Check one final time with a level to confirm that the wall is straight, level and plumb. Use the rubber mallet to help aid in final alignment. Once satisfied, let the sealant dry overnight.

## 10(a). Finishing the Joints (For Grouted Joint Finish)

**IMPORTANT: The ProVantage™ Surface Grout was designed and tested for this application – DO NOT SUBSTITUTE!**

**CAUTION:** Avoid contact with skin. Safety glasses and impervious gloves are recommended to minimize skin and eye contact.

- **REMINDER:** Make sure that sealant has been allowed to cure for 24 hours before applying grout.
- This is a fast cure grout and should be applied and completely wiped down within 1 hour. Grout will cure very rapidly after this time period.
- Do not grout the perimeter joints between the blocks and the wall and curb. These joints must be caulked after the grout has dried for a pliable watertight joint.
- Directions for mixing grout must be followed to the exact detail.
- Follow mixing instructions on ProVantage™ Surface Grout bucket. Grout coverage rate is 80 glass block units per 15 lb. bucket. Approximate ratio is: 3 cups grout to 1 cup water (grout should be mixed to a toothpaste-like consistency).
- Apply grout with a rubber float by pushing grout into all joints. Make sure to push grout in from multiple directions to assure joints are FULLY packed with grout. Be careful not to move the glass blocks while grouting, as the wall will still be a bit flexible prior to the grout curing completely. Movement may cause the grout to separate or squeeze out.
- Wipe down the glass block wall using a tile/grout sponge and a clean bucket of water. Always wipe down in a diagonal direction. This will prevent the grout from being wiped out of the joints. Make sure to rinse the sponge frequently, as it will quickly fill up with excess grout. Fully wring out all the water from the sponge prior to wiping.
- Wipe down should recur in multiple directions until all the grout is removed from the block surface, and joints are smooth.
- Let the glass block wall set for 15 minutes, then wipe it down again using a clean bucket of water.
- The grout will cure within four hours. At this point you can begin polishing glass blocks by wiping down with cheesecloth.
- After the grout is completely dry (approx. 4 hrs.), fill the perimeter joints with sealant.
- Use a plastic spoon to take off and smooth out any excess sealant.

### Grout Sealer

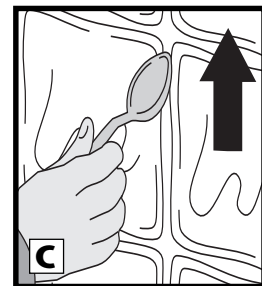
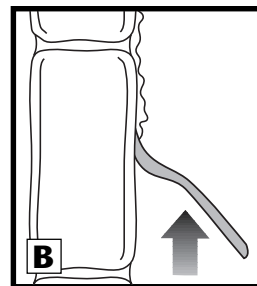
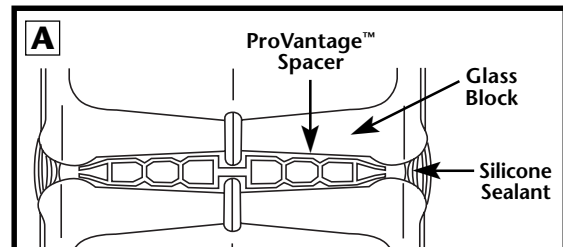
- Wait four hours, then apply grout sealer to all grout joints. Immediately wipe off any excess sealer with a clean, dry cloth to prevent it from adhering to the glass block. For maximum protection it is recommended that you apply a second coat of sealer after the first coat has dried.

## 10(b). Finishing the Joints (For Silicone Joint Finish for Glass Block Panels Supported on All Four Sides)

**IMPORTANT: Not recommended for shower applications.**

**CAUTION:** Avoid contact with skin. Safety glasses and impervious gloves are recommended to minimize skin and eye contact. Provide sufficient mechanical ventilation.

- Follow the application instructions on the Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block sealant tube to open the tube. Coverage rate is one tube per sixteen (16) glass blocks. The sealant skins over in about 15 minutes. Don't seal more joints than can be tooled smooth in approximately 15 minutes. Practice the sealing technique before starting.
- Seal the horizontal joints first, pulling the tube through the joint. Slightly overfill the joints (Illus. A).



- Use a pointed plastic spoon and push it over the joints at an angle to collect the excess sealant and to seal the joint. Inspect all the joints to make sure they are sealed. Periodically wipe the sealant from the pointed plastic spoon (Illus. B & C).
- Remove any excess sealant from the block faces with the side of your pointed plastic spoon.
- Use the same method to fill the vertical joints. Carefully work the joint intersections to create a smooth finish. Repeat this procedure to seal the opposite side of the panel.
- Allow the sealant to cure 48 hours before putting any stress on the panel.
- If perimeter channels are used, then run a bead of sealant between the perimeter channels and the face of the blocks, and also, between the perimeter channels and the framing. Use the pointed plastic spoon to seal these joints and to remove any excess sealant.
- The piece of perimeter channel along the top (which was wedged in place earlier) must always have a bead of sealant applied between it and the frame.
- After 48-hours remove any excess sealant from the glass block faces with a razor blade.
- Clean glass block faces with glass cleaner or soapy water. Do not use abrasive cleaners which may damage the glass surface and silicone.
- Install surrounding wood or other trim, if desired.

## 11. Maintenance

An important part of the functional beauty of Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block products is that they are virtually maintenance free! There's nothing to rot, rust, peel or paint. All that is needed is an occasional wiping with a damp, soft cloth on interior panels or a hosing on exterior panels. With minimal attention, your Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block will remain sparkling and beautiful for years!

## If You Need Assistance

We hope these instructions are clear and answer your questions about the installation of Pittsburgh Corning Premiere Series Glass Blocks and Finishing Units with the ProVantage™ Glass Block Installation System. For additional information on Pittsburgh Corning Glass Block visit our website at [www.pittsburghcorning.com](http://www.pittsburghcorning.com) or call **1-800-624-2120**.

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