

AUTO GLASS

MAINTENANCE GUIDE



Caring for Your Auto Glass is Important

How much thought do you give your car's auto glass on a daily basis? Chances are, not much. Thankfully, your auto glass is always there to improve your sight lines and to protect you from dirt, pebbles, and other debris while you're driving. Auto glass is especially important during bad weather such as rain, snow, and sleet.

Your auto glass protects you, so protect your auto glass by keeping it properly maintained and making necessary repairs as soon as possible. In this guide we'll explain some auto glass basics.

Page 1: Windshield Maintenance

What is a windshield made of? Learn how a windshield is different from a regular window as well as some basic cleaning and care tips to get the most out of your windshield.

Page 2: Analyzing Damage: Repair or Replace?

Damage happens sometimes, but smaller cracks and chips can be repaired to save you money. We'll explain how auto glass specialists decide whether to repair or replace your windshield.

Page 3: General Auto Glass Care

For your safety, it's important to keep your headlights, door glass, and mirrors in top condition. We'll explain how to address and prevent some common issues.

Bonus: At the end of this guide you'll find an easy checklist to help you decide whether it's best to repair your damaged windshield or replace it completely.

Windshield Maintenance

The Anatomy of Your Windshield

Your windshield isn't just a layer of glass. It's actually made up of three layers to form what's known as "laminated glass." The two outer layers are made of plate glass that is curved and then cooled quickly to strengthen it. In between these two pieces of glass is a layer of plastic bonded to the frame. The inner plastic layer is what keeps your windshield from shattering on impact.

Windshield Maintenance and Care:

- Use glass cleaner or vinegar to remove dirt and grime from your windshield. Avoid ammonia-based cleaners, which can dry out plastic and damage your window tinting.
- Harsh and sudden changes in temperature can shock your auto glass and make small cracks worse. Park in the shade in the summer and allow your car to warm up gradually in the winter.
- Avoid slamming your car doors. The vibrations will travel to your windshield, causing rock chips to spread, and it can also cause your door glass to fall off track.

Windshield Wiper Maintenance:

Don't forget your wiper blades! Maintaining your windshield wipers will improve your visibility and keep you safe in rain, snow, and other harsh weather conditions.

- Replace worn out blades every 6-12 months and check them regularly to remove pebbles and other debris that can scratch your windshield.
- Clear your windshield of ice and large debris before you activate your wiper blades to prevent them from becoming bent or damaged.
- Trico Flex wiper blades are an affordable option that offer advanced protection for your vehicle. In tests they lasted more than 1.5 million cycles, which means you'll have to replace them less often. Their sturdy, aerodynamic design allows for smoother motion across the glass, so no squeaks!

Tip: Keep Your Windshield Clear with Aquapel Glass Treatment

Your visibility is crucial to driving safely, especially in bad weather. Consider having your windshield treated with Aquapel to increase your visibility in rain, snow, and sleet. Aquapel is a treatment that bonds to your auto glass and causes water to bead on the surface so it slides away easily. It also makes cleaning bugs, pollen, and other dirt away easier, and the treatment lasts for months!

Your windshield protects you from dirt, dust, and debris while you're on the road, but what happens when your windshield becomes damaged? In the next section you'll learn how to determine whether your windshield can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced.

Analyzing Damage: Repair or Replace?

Your windshield faces wear and tear on a daily basis, so scratches and nicks are to be expected. Unfortunately, there are plenty of hazards out there such as bad weather, auto accidents, and larger road debris that can cause more serious damage to your windshield.

Thankfully, a damaged windshield doesn't have to mean a full replacement. Take a look at the type, placement, and the size of the damage.

TYPE

Chips and cracks are usually caused by impact from rocks, hail, and other large debris. Surface cracks and chips that only affect the outer layer of glass can usually be repaired.

SIZE

Most chips will be small--about the size of a quarter. These chips can be repaired if they don't penetrate the inner layer of glass. Cracks or chips covering an area greater than 2 inches across usually aren't repairable.

PLACEMENT

Damage too close to the edge of the windshield is more vulnerable to vibrations from your car when you're driving or opening and closing doors. Replace your windshield if the damage is within a few inches of the edge or if it blocks your sight while driving.

When assessing your windshield's damage, ask yourself these questions. If you answer "yes" to more of them, you could be eligible for windshield repair.

- **Can I cover the damage completely with a quarter?**

We can usually repair small chips and cracks, saving you money on a replacement.

- **Does the damage only penetrate the outermost layer of glass on my windshield?**

If you can feel the crack from the inside of your car, it's time for a replacement.

- **Is the damage located toward the center and away from the edges of the windshield?**

Cracks located too close to the edge can compromise the integrity of your auto glass.

Tip: Hire a Pro

DIY windshield repair kits are advertised as a cheap fix to a broken windshield, but hiring a pro is ultimately the less expensive option. Windshield repair requires precision. If you make a mistake when trying to repair the damage yourself, your only option will be to replace the windshield completely. Let our experienced auto glass specialists provide the safest and highest quality repairs for your windshield.

General Auto Glass Care

Your windshield isn't the only auto glass that needs special care! Don't forget to maintain your door glass, headlights, and side mirrors to keep you aware of your surroundings while on the road.

DOOR GLASS

Most modern cars use motorized regulators to make your door windows go up and down. There are plenty of reasons why your door glass might fall "off track" or stop working as it should, including damage to your door or simply your vehicle's age. This can lead to stuck windows or even shattered glass. If your window regulator isn't working or your door glass seems off track, contact us to enlist the help of an auto glass specialist.

HEADLIGHT MAINTENANCE

Foggy, hazy, or broken headlights are a driving hazard, especially at night or in inclement weather conditions. Don't wait for your car's annual inspection--check your headlights once per month to make sure they're working as they should. Keep the glass clean and replace broken headlights as soon as possible.

SIDE MIRRORS

Minimize blind spots and stay safe on the road by making sure your side mirrors are positioned correctly before you start driving. Keep them clear using glass cleaner, and be sure to replace broken mirrors as soon as possible. Again, you can find DIY side mirror replacement kits but it's always best to let an auto glass pro replace them for you.

Your safety matters, which is why it's so important to replace or repair your auto glass as soon as possible when it becomes damaged. On the next page you'll find a handy checklist to help you decide whether to repair or replace your windshield.

Auto Glass Care Checklist

Should you repair or replace your damaged windshield? Follow this checklist to determine your best option. If you're still not sure, contact the auto glass specialists at Taylor Auto Glass to get an assessment!

REPAIR

Your windshield may be repairable if...

- You can cover the damage completely with a quarter
- The crack or chip only affects the outer layer of the auto glass
- The damage doesn't impede the driver's line of sight
- The damage isn't in front of a camera or sensor

Remember that no matter the size or shape, it's important to have your windshield repaired ASAP. Even tiny cracks and chips can get worse after slamming a car door or hitting an unexpected bump in the road. Even drastic temperature fluctuations can cause a small crack to increase in size. Repair the damage before it's too late.

REPLACE

Your windshield needs to be replaced if...

- The damage is located close to the edge of the windshield
- You have 3 or more chips on your windshield
- The damage penetrates more than the outermost layer of the auto glass
- The crack or chip can be felt from the inside of your car

Not only does your windshield protect you from dirt, pebbles, and other debris on the road while you're driving, but it also contributes to the structural integrity of your vehicle. That's why it's important to hire an auto glass professional who can safely install your new windshield.

At Taylor Auto Glass we provide professional auto glass services to our customers in Winston Salem and the Triad. Let us help you keep your auto glass in great shape so you can drive safely! We can help you with:

- WINDSHIELD REPAIR • WINDSHIELD REPLACEMENT • HEADLIGHT REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT
- AQUAPEL GLASS TREATMENT • DOOR GLASS AND REGULAR REPAIR
- WINDSHIELD WIPER MAINTENANCE • SIDE AND REAR VIEW MIRROR REPLACEMENT

