

Acrylic Plastic Sheets

Q. How should acrylic sheets be stored?

A. Store vertically and away from heat sources and direct sunlight. If sheets are stored outside, cover with an opaque, heat-reflecting material to prevent heat buildup.

Q. When do I remove the sheet masking on my acrylic sheets?

A. Masking should be left in place while cutting or drilling to protect the surface of acrylic sheets.

Q. How do you cut acrylic sheets?

A. Use either a table saw with closely spaced teeth or a router fitted with bits for cutting plastic. A scoring tool may be used if sheets are thinner than 1/4 inch. Using a straight edge as a guide, score half way through sheet. (This may take several passes.) Align score line with table edge and clamp securely. Apply downward pressure to the portion of the sheet hanging off the table until sheet breaks. Always wear safety glasses!

Q. What is the best way to smooth rough edges produced from cutting acrylic sheets?

A. Scrape or file sheets to smooth and square any rough edges. Any piece of metal with a flat, sharp edge may be used as a scraper. A commercial file is recommended for filing. File coarseness will determine finish quality. For best results, file in only one direction.

Q. How should I drill into my acrylic sheets?

A. Standard wood-working drill bits may be used for drilling holes. Drill bits designed for drilling plastics work best. It is recommended to drill a small pilot hole first to help locate the drill.

Q. Is there a glue that I can use to bond two pieces of polycarbonate together?

A. Yes. A solvent-based glue is recommended. Allow glue to cure for 24-48 hours. End results are nearly invisible with good adhesion and strength. Always check glue compatibility with manufacturer.

Q. How can I remove scratches from acrylic sheets?

A. Remove fine scratches with a recommended 'plastic scratch' remover and soft cloth. Wet sandpaper may be used for deeper scratches. Use plenty of water and rinse the sandpaper frequently. Wipe off residue.

Q. Can you polish acrylic sheets?

A. A power-driven buffer may be used to polish sheets. Edges can also be flame polished.

Q. How do you wash acrylic sheets?

A. Blow off loose dust and dirt. Clean with a mild detergent and soft cloth. Rinse with clean water. Abrasive cleaning agents and glass window cleaners should be avoided. They may chemically attack sheets.