SurfWagon

Building Tint Warning

THERMAL STRESS CRACKING

The rare cases of thermal stress cracking we have seen in our many years of business have occurred in glass when there is a temperature variance in different parts of one piece of glass. If the stress caused by the temperature difference is greater than the strength of the glass, thermal stress glass breakage may result. Applying window tint may cause glass to heat up more that it did previously when it was clear.

Absorption of the sun's energy is one of the main causes of this temperature difference. A section of glass exposed to the sun absorbs the suns energy and as a result, heats up. Any part of the same piece of glass which is shaded from the sun (for example by the window frame) stays relatively cool. The hot glass expands while the smaller, cooler area doesn't. If the cool area of the glass isn't strong enough to withstand the forces imposed by the expanding hot section of the glass, thermal stress breakage could occur.

Thermal stress cracking is rare and nearly always occurs when there is some sort of damage to the glass edge affecting the overall strength of the glass pane, especially in larger panes of glass. The existing glass damage is usually impossible to see at the time of tinting as it will be under the rubber or wood window surround.

SurfWagon and our installers take absolute care in recommending film that will limit the possibility of stress cracking. We will also check at the time of installation for any visible damage that may cause stress but at no stage can SurfWagon be held responsible for any thermal stress that may occur. In the rare case of thermal stress cracking a window it is up to the owner to resolve the issue with their glass provider or insurer.

Please understand this very minimal risk before we tint your windows. We also encourage you to ask any questions you may have prior to tinting and after.

Many thanks
SurfWagon team

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