

OPTIX FAQs

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET PRODUCTS?

Plaskolite manufactures extruded acrylic (OPTIX®), continuous cast acrylic (OPTIX®-L), and cell cast acrylic (OPTIX® Cell Cast/Plazcast) sheet products. Each of these acrylic sheet products are made using different processes, resulting in a range of properties to meet the broad range of acrylic sheet applications. OPTIX® is continuously processed (extruded) acrylic sheet, which has a lower molecular weight, high optical clarity, and good craze resistance. OPTIX®-L is referred to as continuous cast acrylic sheet, which has a higher molecular weight and better craze resistance than continuously processed acrylic without sacrificing on optical clarity. OPTIX® Cell Cast/Plazcast has the highest molecular weight of any Plaskolite acrylic sheet product, resulting in excellent craze resistance and optical clarity.

HOW DO I CLEAN OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

The best way to clean OPTIX® acrylic sheet is to use mild soap and water with a soft microfiber cloth, followed by a lukewarm water rinse. For detailed information on alternative cleaning agents, please refer to the cleaning instructions for acrylic located at www.plaskolite.com under Resources.

HOW DO I CUT OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

OPTIX® acrylic sheet can be cut using conventional carpentry tools and lasers. Always use proper safety equipment when working with power tools. For best results, use sharp cutting tools designed to cut acrylic and minimize vibration of the material. For specific instructions on cutting acrylic, please refer to the OPTIX® Fabrication Guides at www.plaskolite.com under Resources.

WHAT TYPES OF SEALANTS SHOULD BE USED WITH OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

For specific instructions on glazing sealants, please refer to the OPTIX® Fabrication Guides at www.plaskolite.com under Resources.

HOW DO I BOND TWO PIECES OF OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET TOGETHER?

OPTIX® acrylic sheet can be bonded using various techniques including adhesive bonding, solvent bonding or mechanical fastening. For specific instructions on bonding acrylic, please refer to the OPTIX® Fabrication Guides at www.plaskolite.com under Resources.

HOW CAN I GET A DECLARATION STATEMENT:

RoHS?

REACH?

Food Contact?

Please refer to the appropriate links on www.plaskolite.com.

DOES OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET BLOCK UV LIGHT?

General purpose OPTIX® acrylic sheet will filter 80% - 90% of the UV light within the damaging wavelength area of 250nm - 400nm. Plaskolite also offers OPTIX® UVF and OPTIX®-L Museum Grade that both filter up to 98% of UV light.

HOW SHOULD I STORE MY OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

OPTIX® sheets and reels should be stored in a well-protected, ventilated area with no direct exposure to sunlight or harsh weather conditions, including hot and humid environments. During storage, masking should be left on the sheet to protect against scratching.

HOW DO I REMOVE OLD MASKING FROM OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

Old masking is difficult, if not impossible, to remove without damaging the sheet's surface. The protective masking has aged and bonded directly onto the acrylic, making removal challenging. However, it may be possible to remove polyethylene masking by using a tube to roll the film off the sheet. Start at the corner of the sheet and wrap the film around the tube. Paper masking might be removed by using a mild solvent, such as vinegar or kerosene, to dissolve the adhesive.

HOW DO I REMOVE A LABEL OR STICKER OR GREASE FROM OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

To remove labels, stickers, glazing compounds or grease, rub gently with a soft cloth wetted in vinegar or kerosene. Immediately rinse thoroughly with lukewarm water. Do not use razor blades, scrapers, or squeegees as they can scratch the sheet. Another method is to gently heat the label with a hairdryer (not a heat gun) to soften the label's glue prior to removal.

HOW DO I REMOVE SCRATCHES FROM OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

Deep scratches and gouges made by sharp objects such as keys, screwdrivers, and knives cannot be repaired. Fine scratches may be reduced in severity or cosmetically hidden by using a buffing compound such as NOVUS Plastic Fine Scratch Remover. However, for scratch-resistant products such as OPTIX® SR, buffing the coated surface is not recommended since doing so further damages and thins the coating, which worsens the condition of the acrylic sheet. Once removed, the scratch-resistant coating cannot be repaired.

HOW MUCH WEIGHT CAN OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET SUPPORT?

Weight loading is affected by many variables, such as gauge, sheet dimension, edge engagement, and whether the weight is from a single point or is evenly distributed across the sheet. Plaskolite recommends contacting a qualified structural engineer for advice on this matter.

WHERE CAN I FIND INFORMATION ON FLORIDA BUILDING CODES FOR OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET AS IT RELATES TO THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY HURRICANE ZONE?

Miami-Dade County's Notice of Acceptance (NOA) can be located here:

https://www.miamidade.gov/building/pc-search_app.asp

WHAT IS THE NORMAL OPERATING TEMPERATURE OF OPTIX® ACRYLIC?

OPTIX® should be used in applications with normal temperatures of 175°F or less, with short-term exposure up to 190°F. Exceeding these temperatures for extended periods of time can cause the sheet to soften and become deformed.

HOW LONG WILL OPTIX® ACRYLIC LAST?

Plaskolite manufactures a variety of OPTIX® sheet products for numerous applications. Our products are engineered to the highest standards, but they require proper installation and maintenance. Please see warranty details for additional information.

I NEED INFORMATION ON FLAME SPREAD RATINGS FOR OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET BEING USED AS A BUILDING MATERIAL.

OPTIX® acrylic sheets are CC-2 light-transmitting plastics, per Chapter 26 of the International Building Code (IBC). Plaskolite's ICC-ES reports can be located here: <https://icc-es.org/evaluation-report-program/reports-directory/>.

DO OPTIX® PRODUCTS HAVE A UL 94 FLAME RATING?

Yes, OPTIX® acrylic products carry the UL 94 HB designation. Plaskolite's UL listings can be located here: <https://productiq.ulprospector.com/en>.

CAN OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET BE BENT OR CURVED?

Yes. Frequently referred as "cold bending", OPTIX® acrylic sheet can be bent with a minimum radius of 200 times the thickness of the sheet to avoid stress cracking. Hard-coated sheet, such as OPTIX® SR, cannot be bent without damaging the coating.

DOES OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET EXPAND IN HEAT/CONTRACT IN COLD?

Yes. OPTIX® acrylic sheet expand with heat and contract with cold temperature. As a general guideline, applications should be designed to allow a 1/16th inch per foot of length and width for expansion or contraction.

CAN I DIGITALLY PRINT ON OPTIX® ACRYLIC SHEET?

It is possible to digitally print on general purpose OPTIX® acrylic sheet, but an adhesion promoter is likely necessary to achieve good ink adhesion to the sheet. For more information on preparing OPTIX® acrylic sheet for printing, please refer to the OPTIX® Fabrication Guide at www.plaskolite.com under Resources. As an alternative, Plaskolite also offers OPTIX® DA and E-DA which are specially formulated for digital printing, and do not require the use of an adhesion promoter.

I NEED A SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS) FOR ONE OF YOUR PRODUCTS.

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for Plaskolite products are located at www.plaskolite.com under Resources.

These suggestions and data are based on information we believe to be reliable. They are offered in good faith, but without guarantee, as conditions and methods of use are beyond our control. We recommend that the prospective user determines the suitability of our materials and suggestions before adopting them on a commercial scale.

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