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Jobsite Must-Haves: Contract Glaziers Talk About Their Favorite Tools

We've all got that go-to item . . . that one thing you use every day. You'd be lost without it. Many people might say "mobile phone" without thinking twice, but for glaziers, the answers might be different—particularly when it comes to the jobsite. We asked some USGlass readers to tell us about their favorite tools, and what makes them stand out. Here's a look at what a few had to say.

"I've been in the glazing industry for over 25 years now. As glaziers, we have an arsenal of tools, but if there is one thing that I reach for throughout the day, it's a flat prybar with a sharp edge. Whether I'm reglazing a window in a house, putting a sliding patio door back into place, or raising a commercial door to adjust it, the prybar is a very universal tool."

—Jason Roussan, senior glazier,
Binswanger Glass, Branson, Mo.



For Jason Roussan, the versatility of the prybar makes it one of the most important tools on the jobsite.

"I've been a union glazier in local 1087 New York for 35 years. The last 30 of which have been for David Shuldiner Glass. I've also worked on and off on the revitalization of Ground Zero projects, and my favorite tool for glazing is a caulking gun. The caulking gun is used for a number of reasons, like preventing water and air infiltration. In a structural application, it's used to secure glass to the building. I specialize in high-end interior finish caulking and structural caulking applications."

—Mike Garcia, glazier,
David Shuldiner Glass,
Brooklyn, N.Y.



Mike Garcia demonstrates how he frequently uses the caulking gun for many interior projects.

"My favorite tool is my tape measure. It defines everything we do, it is the first tool you must learn to use, and you will continue to use it throughout your career. Everyone from the entry-level apprentice on up to the project manager all use the tape measure, and its language is universal to all tradesmen. I have a special mini tape I produced from an old worn-out tape measure that comes in handy every day."

—Andres Molinar, glazing superintendent,
Santa Barbara Glass Co.

"One of our most useful tools is the mini crane. We use them often, because they can basically replicate—on a much larger scale—every motion that your arm, wrist and hand can do. They swivel, they turn, they twist, all while holding onto huge pieces of glass. They can ride up a small elevator and fit into tight corners, yet still manipulate more than 1,000-pound pieces of glass using the glass cup manipulator."

—Bob Linford, director of
commercial contracts, Giroux Glass

Giroux Glass works with equipment such as mini cranes from Spyder to install glazing in high-rise projects, even working with lites weighing 1,100 pounds and measuring 12 by 7 feet.



For Andres Molinar, the measuring tape is a staple in his toolbox and something he uses everyday. ■