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Flat Glass Products - Tempering
Insulating - Beveling - Edgework
All-Glass Doors - Shower Enclosures
StoreFront and Curtain Wall Systems
Aluminum Entrances

INSULATING GLASS BREATHER TUBES

Insulating units that will be transported through or installed in high altitude regions should be ordered with breather tubes. Our factory elevation is about 400 feet above sea level, so if our I. G. units will be transported through or installed in elevations over 3000 feet above sea level, breather tubes should be requested.

Air pressure decreases as altitude increases. This phenomenon causes a sealed insulating unit to expand as it is moved to higher altitude. Glass breakage, seal breakage or glass "rub marks" caused by expanded glass units rubbing against adjacent glass in a case can result.

SGC will install a 12" long stainless steel thin diameter tube in an upper corner of the I.G. unit. The tube will be covered with filament tape when it leaves our shop. This tape should be removed when the glass is to be shipped to the high altitude location.

Upon arrival at the installation site, the units should be checked for deflection with a straight edge and allowed to equalize.

After the equalization period, the tube should be crimped closed with a pair of pliers, and the end filled with a butyl sealant. The tube should be glazed into the glazing cavity.

SGC does not recommend filling a high altitude insulating unit with argon gas since the gas can readily escape from the unit through the breather tube.

Insulating units with breather tubes are not warranted unless:

- SGC receives, reviews in advance, and approves in writing the project location and elevation, sizes, quantities, installation specifics and all other relevant facts concerning the installation and
- SGC receives written confirmation that these procedures have been followed.