



Comparison of Picture Frame Glass, Acrylic, and ArtGlass*

Choosing the Best Glazing for Your Artwork

Introduction

When framing art or photographs, the decision often lies between standard glass, acrylic, or specialised non-reflective options like ArtGlass*. Each material brings unique strengths and drawbacks. This summary will help guide your selection based on your priorities and the artwork's needs.

Material Overview

- **Glass:** The classic standard, hard and clear, provides a traditional look.
- **Acrylic:** Lightweight, shatter-resistant plastic (also known as Perspex or Plexiglas), often used for large or shipped frames.
- **ArtGlass* (Coated Non-Reflective Glass):** High-quality glass with a special coating that dramatically reduces reflections and enhances clarity, often used in museums and galleries.

Key Factors Compared

- **Clarity & Appearance:** Standard glass is crisp but can reflect light. Acrylic is clear but may distort in very large sizes. ArtGlass* offers exceptional clarity with almost invisible anti-reflective properties, displaying the true colours of the artwork.
- **Weight:** Acrylic is much lighter than glass or ArtGlass*, making it best for large or portable frames.
- **Durability & Safety:** Acrylic is shatter-resistant and safest around children or for shipping; both standard glass and ArtGlass* can break.
- **UV Protection:** Acrylic generally blocks more UV light than standard glass. ArtGlass* models are available with high UV protection, offering strong preservation for art and photos.
- **Cost:** Standard glass is least expensive; acrylic costs slightly more; ArtGlass* is the priciest due to its advanced coatings and clarity.
- **Maintenance:** Standard glass resists scratches and is easy to clean; ArtGlass* scratches may damage the coating and should not be cleaned with Ammonia based products (use either damp microfibre cloth or special cleaner available from French Revivals). Acrylic scratches more easily and needs gentle cleaning, microfibre cloth is recommended, damp or dusting lightly.
- **Environmental impact:** Glass and ArtGlass* are more recyclable/environmentally friendly than acrylic.

Summary Table

FEATURE	GLASS	ACRYLIC	ARTGLASS*
Clarity	High	Very high	Exceptional, nearly invisible
Weight	Heavy	Light	Heavy
Durability	Breakable	Shatter-resistant	Breakable, less hazardous
UV Protection	Low	High	High (model dependent)
Cost	Lower	Slightly Higher	Highest
Maintenance	Scratch-resistant	Careful cleaning needed	Care needed – see Key Factors
Environmental	Recyclable	Less recyclable	Recyclable

Conclusion

Choose standard glass for everyday framing at lower cost, acrylic for safety and light weight, or ArtGlass* for the highest clarity and minimal reflections—ideal for valuable or display pieces. Consider your environment, the size and value of your art, and the level of protection desired.

** ArtGlass is a registered name, there are various options. At French Revivals ArtGlass AR70 is used, available in 2mm and 3mm thickness. It has a reflection of less than 1%, light transmission 99% and 70% UV protection*