

We are frequently asked what the safe load rate is for glass shelving. In order to answer this question, we went to the manufacturer of most of the glass we use in our systems, here in the US, Libbey Owens Ford. Their response is as follows:

“The permissible load for annealed glass shelves is based on two-sided support, maximum load less dead weight of glass, minimum published glass thickness from ASTM Specification C1036-90, modulus of rupture of 6,000 psi for annealed float glass and a design factor of 5. This results in a probability breakage of 8 in 1,000 when shelves are loaded to the design maximum permissible load for long duration’s (e.g. weeks or months).”\*\*

	Distance Between Supports (feet)				
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Nominal Glass Thickness:</b>	<b>Approximate Permissible Load – Pounds per Square Foot</b>				
3/16”	49	10	3	1	-
1/4”	73	16	5	2	-
3/8”	196	45	17	8	3
1/2”	345	81	33	15	7
5/8”	556	133	54	27	14
3/4”	817	197	82	42	23
1”	1489	362	153	81	48

\*\*This chart gives the estimated load ranges for annealed glass. At Nova Display, Inc., we utilize only tempered glass. Tempered glass is “estimated ” to be four times as strong as annealed glass. Therefore, in order to estimate load ranges for the tempered glass we use, you may multiply the above figures by four (4).

**\*The information contained in this publication is offered for your assistance in the application of glass products in your displays, but DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR PURPOSE. Actual performance may vary in particular applications.**