

At Auto Glass Systems of Springfield, we want to make your experience with us a positive one! The more you understand what is taking place, the more comfortable you'll be with our services. We feel that it is important to educate consumers on how auto glass damage could impact you. Protect yourself and your family by learning about the role of the windshield in your and your vehicle's safety and selecting Auto Glass Systems of Springfield to help you along the way.

WINDSHIELD REPAIR

Chips vs. Cracks

There are many different types of windshield damage, the most common being rock chips and cracks. A rock chip, most commonly experienced by the public, can generally be described as damage on a windshield caused by road debris. Rock chips do not usually extend completely through the glass. A crack, on the other hand, is a straight or crooked line extending across the windshield. It can extend on the front and back of the windshield, or just exist on one side. The good news is, both can be repaired in many cases!

Types of Chips

Bulls-Eye: These are the most common rock chips, and can be very easily repaired if the diameter is no larger than one inch. These types of breaks usually always disappear and hardly ever spread once the repair is completed and cured.

Star Break: These chips usually have multiple legs extending from the impact point. Although more difficult to repair, if the chip's total diameter (including legs) does not exceed one inch, then it can be done. You can still expect to see some of the break when the repair is completed, but it should not spread any further.

Half Moon: This type of rock chip is very similar to the bulls-eye break and can also be repaired if it is no larger than one inch in diameter.

Combination: This type of rock chip has damage with multiple characteristics, and can generally be repaired if the damaged area has a diameter of no more than 1/8 of an inch. Proper technique can make the appearance of these chips diminish, but not completely.

WINDSHIELD STRESSORS

In our many years on the job, we have seen first-hand just how quickly a rock chip or crack can spread and worsen. The longer you wait to repair the damage, the more likely it will spread, turning a repairable situation into a complete windshield replacement, most likely costing you more. If you're holding off on bringing your vehicle in to be repaired, you should first consider the following stressors that have been known to further promote damage.

Warm Weather

In warmer weather conditions, the heat tends to cause a rock chip or crack in your windshield to spread in a vertical manner. Studies also show that running the air conditioner in your vehicle may intensify an existing crack and accelerate the damage.

Cold Weather

In colder weather conditions, windshields will take on a concave shape causing the rock chip or crack to spread horizontally. The colder it gets, the more likely the chip will worsen and spread even further.

Road Conditions and Fatigue

Rough terrain or obstacles in the road can also cause a windshield rock chip or crack to spread. Whether it's a speed bump, pothole or uneven surface, the force of this sudden change in movement exerts pressure on the edges of the chip or crack, causing further damage.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Many times, the weather can affect the repair or installation process. Remember these facts the next time the need arises.

- A vehicle windshield must be dry for at least 24 hours before repair.
- Auto glass should never be installed in the rain or snow for both safety and manufacturer reasons.
- In order to provide mobile auto glass service, suitable shelter will be needed, such as your garage.
- During the colder parts of the year, certain temperature requirements must be met in order to guarantee a safe and successful installation.

Trust the experts at Auto Glass Systems of Springfield!