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## Window films offer clear security advantages: Installations in N.E. have risen dramatically

**re Richard Eannarino**



NE Sun Control

The installation of the right security window film results in an invisible barrier that provides immeasurable safety for your business. Now, more than ever, safety and protection of your investment and employees is an important consideration for every business owner. In response to the heightened concern about terrorism, the U.S. government and private industry are developing and testing new technologies to mitigate hazards to people in the vicinity of a terrorist bombing. New England Sun Control (NESc), established in 1975 and based in Smithfield, R.I. has been at the forefront of this new initiative, well before 9/11. Not only are security window films virtually impenetrable by vandals and thieves, they also act as a safety barrier from blasts, natural disasters, falling debris, or other incidents that threaten employees and valuable possessions.

Security films are specifically designed to hold broken pieces of glass together to keep them from smashing in or flying into the inside environment. Sharp edged projectiles have caused numerous injuries and have resulted in deaths in situations where windows were left unprotected. Tough and resilient, safety

and security window films are composed of incredibly strong, optical-quality polyester, high-grade ultraviolet inhibitors and special laminating and mounting adhesives, with a protective, scratch-resistant coating that utilize DuPont's Mylar brand of polyester. Security films have been installed in the nations most prestigious government buildings, corporate headquarters, sensitive military installations and numerous retail environments. The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) developed criteria for evaluation of acceptable levels of protection from the glass fragment hazards in a terrorist bombing. These criteria are part of the comprehensive security criteria developed by the GSA, which includes physical security, electronic security, and many other criteria for blast considerations. Their proven security and level of safety have made security films an economical alternative to secure their buildings without jeopardizing esthetics.

Because New England has so many sensitive high tech, research, education, government and historic properties, it is one of America's most visible areas for terrorist attacks. Many government agencies and private-sector companies have been proactive in adding window films for security measures. The list of installations around New England reads like a who's who list of some of the most recognized names in their particular field. Because of the sensitivity of those locations and confidentiality requirements, the cannot be named here. But suffice it to say that any enterprise that feels it

may be a target, or, is in close proximity to a target, has wisely installed security window film. In fact, enough security film has been installed in the New England area to stretch from Boston to Stockbridge on the Mass Tpke.

We have seen our business grow substantially since 9/11 and the advent of new government and insurance mandates, but consequently, our customers get more than added security measures as a result." The value of a window film installation is two-fold; security and energy conservation. While customers may add security films for their unparalleled protection, by selecting a solar security window Film lower energy operating costs, often times producing a two to four year return on investment.

Solar security control films utilized advanced metallization processes to provide additional sun related benefits, beyond ultraviolet protection. These films include a metallized layer of polyester, sputter-coated with durable, exotic metals for exceptional, solar control performance capabilities and color. In addition to glass retention, they're selected for their ability to offer privacy, balance temperatures, minimize eye-straining glare, and help preserve furnishings and merchandise. Window films are capable of rejecting up to 70% of solar energy greatly reducing cooling costs in summer months.

Safety window film also provides a passive layer of protection against severe weather, including hurricanes, which may cause windows to shatter. Hurricane season began June

1st and lasts through Nov. 30th. With the intensity of storms increasing in the past several years, and New England long over due for hurricane activity, now may be the time property managers to be proactive in preparing for possible storm damage.

"Windows are a building's most vulnerable area," said Mike Harris, an armorcoat executive for Bekaert Specialty Films, one of the worlds leading window film manufacturer. "We find that people are very interested to know about the benefits of safety film, as it helps hold broken glass in place upon storm debris impact and it endures the heavy wind and rain that can last for hours. Armorcoat safety film protects people and furnishings from the dangerous airborne shards that cause a majority of injury and damage during and after the storm, and throughout the year."

Window film manufacturers have successfully bridged the gap that existed between the window film industry as a whole and the end user. For many years specifiers, architects and building managers didn't fully realize the potential of adding window films to their building. The thinking was that window films were mostly cosmetic with little real benefits. The heightened security environment across the world, as well as consistently unstable energy prices, has pushed the benefits of window films into the consciousness. The result has been a dramatic rise in installations not only here in New England, but around the globe.

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