

## **Ply Gem Windows Adds Impact Glass to its Roster of Building Product Solutions**

### **Impact resistant glass offers homeowners in coastal areas protection against windblown debris**

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**Cary, N.C. --June 22, 2009 --** New Ply Gem Windows MIRA™ Premium Series Impact Windows, introduced in March of 2009, are strengthening the line-up of Ply Gem building product solutions. With the quality and distinctive styles that Ply Gem Windows customers have come to expect, the new impact-resistant glass option is designed to withstand the challenges that harsh coastal conditions present to a homeowner and home.

Popular in coastal regions where storms and hurricanes are common, impact glass prevents windblown debris from breaking through a home's seal thus changing air pressure and giving wind an entry point. Unlike costly storm shutters or unsightly sheets of ply wood, Mira Premium Series windows with impact resistant glass provide a passive form of protection that doesn't require action by the homeowner.

"Impact resistant glass gives homeowners comfort in the knowledge that they don't have to board up their windows prior to a storm to prevent windblown debris from entering their home," said Chris Pickering, vice president, marketing, Ply Gem windows. "This is especially beneficial for owners of condos or town homes who live on upper stories where access to the exterior is extremely difficult."

Based on the same technology found in automotive safety glass, MIRA impact glass consists of two panes of glass bonded together by a tough, durable plastic (polyvinyl butyral - PVB) interlayer. The glass is certified through the ASTM E1886/1996 Large Missile Impact and Cycling Tests. The new glass also meets AAMA/WDMA/CSA 101/I.S.2/A440 standards and has received approval from the Florida Building Commission. The series meets impact requirements in U.S. Zone 2 (110-120 mph) and Zone 3 (120-140 mph) as well as wind-borne debris specifications for large missile, an 8' missile thrown at 50 ft/second, and small missile, a 4' missile thrown at 40 ft/ second.

MIRA Impact Windows are available in eight exterior color options and a variety of styles including casement, awning and out swing patio doors. ENERGY STAR® qualified in all zones throughout the U.S., this series also helps a home qualify for LEED for Homes credits. With other standard features including Low-E glass with Argon gas

fill and durable extruded aluminum cladding on all exterior surfaces to resist dings and dents, these windows provide the energy efficiency and strength a coastal home needs in addition to meeting or exceeding a structural rating of DP60.

“Ply Gem Windows is proud to offer the MIRA Premium Impact Series as a means for additional security,” said Pickering. “We expect this new glass option to be a popular selection for builders, remodelers and homeowners in coastal and high wind regions. A window penetrated by windblown debris can allow hurricane speed winds and water to wreak havoc on the rest of a home. Now, homeowners can get the aesthetic qualities they look for in a MIRA window with the added ability to withstand winds and the impact of projectile damage. The result is more peace of mind.”

For more information about Ply Gem Windows MIRA™ Premium Series Impact Windows, please visit [www.plygemwindows.com](http://www.plygemwindows.com).

#### About Ply Gem

Ply Gem, headquartered in Cary, N.C., is committed to helping North America’s homebuilders, remodelers, architects, distributors, dealers and retailers do more than build homes. Ply Gem wants to help them build their business. The Company offers an unmatched solution to exterior building product needs with a portfolio that includes leading window, door, siding and accessories, stone veneer, fence and rail brands so there is something for every project. Ply Gem siding brands including Mastic Home Exteriors™, Variform®, NAPCO®, United Stone Veneer, Kroy®, Cellwood®, Georgia Pacific, DuraBuilt®, Richwood®, Leaf Relief® and Monticello® Columns. Ply Gem Windows manufactures and markets vinyl, vinyl-clad, wood-clad, aluminum-clad, and aluminum window and patio door brands including Ply Gem® Windows, CWD® Windows and Doors and Great Lakes® Window. The Company’s brands are sold through short-line and two-step distributors, pro dealers, home improvement dealers and big box retailers. Ply Gem employs more than 4,700 people across North America. Visit <http://www.plygem.com> for more information.