

Developer to replace all balcony glass on three condos

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Workers remove balcony glass from the Murano's north tower where glass fell last week near Bay and College Sts.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORONTO STAR

Liam Casey Staff Reporter

A spate of exploding glass balcony railings has prompted a developer to replace every pane on three downtown condo buildings.

Lanterra Developments said it will use laminated glass on its balconies rather than the tempered glass currently in place at its two Murano towers near Bay and College Sts., and a condo at Bedford Rd. and Bloor St.

In a news release, Lanterra said BVDA Facade Engineering inspected the glass on the Murano towers in May, and suggested reinforcing the railing systems. After further analysis of the broken glass, Lanterra decided to change the type used.

Doug Perovic, a University of Toronto engineering professor, said laminated glass is stronger and safer than tempered glass and is similar to that used in car windshields.

If laminated glass shatters it remains in place, held together by plastic sandwiched between two panes.

The developer also announced it will use laminated glass on future projects.

On Tuesday, a panel exploded from an eighth floor balcony at the Thompson Residences near King St. W. and Bathurst St., raining bits onto the courtyard below. No injuries were reported.

