

Decorative Glass Types & Terminology

- **ACID ETCHED:** Glass with an acidic or caustic substance applied to the surface to diffuse transmitted light, reduce glare and create a frosted appearance. The substance can be applied over the entire piece of glass or in selective areas creating a decorative pattern.
- **ANNEALED GLASS:** (A.K.A. “Regular”, “Flat” or “Float” Glass), has not been further processed/fabricated. It is not a safety glass because it breaks into large, sharp pieces upon fracture. This is how most people refer to non-tempered glass. Annealing is the process of slowly cooling the glass from its softening point to its final form. This is done to eliminate thermal stress so the glass can be easily fabricated.
- **BEVELED GLASS:** Glass that has the edge cut off at an angle. This bends the light and produces a prismatic effect. The width of the bevel can vary from ½” on up. Grinding off the edge of flat makes the bevel. Straight-edged bevels are made by multiple machine grinding steps.
- **CARVED GLASS:** Has been sandblasted DEEPER into the surface, creating a three-dimensional sculpted image, carving a relief design, creating a much more detailed effect, obtaining differing depths within the carved image. The carved EDGES within the image will actually appear whiter and brighter, as they pick up and reflect the surrounding light. The image will appear three dimensional, as if it is floating within the glass.
- **CLEAR GLASS:** When we use the term “clear glass” we are referring to “regular clear glass” that is actually not 100% crystal clear, but will have a green tint to it. The green tint becomes more visible as the glass gets thicker, and is most apparent when viewed from the edge. A “MORE CLEAR” GLASS is available, but less commonly used. It is manufactured by reducing the iron content within the glass and by modifying the basic raw materials formula. Different glass manufacturers have different names AND definitions for their “crystal clear” glass, and SOME will still have a slight blue or green/blue tint when viewed from the edge, in LARGER pieces (such as dining table tops, etc.)
- **ETCHED GLASS:** is a generic term for the treatment of the glass surface to diffuse transmitted light, reduce glare and give the glass a white, frosted appearance. Sans Soucie etches the glass using sandblasting. “Etching” the glass (vs. carving), means that we sandblasted the glass enough to affect the glass surface only. Etching does not go deep into the glass and creates a one-dimensional effect.



Decorative Glass Types & Terminology

- **FROSTED GLASS:** A GENERIC TERM for the treatment of the glass surface to diffuse transmitted light and give it a “frosted” appearance. This can be done with many different agents, including acid, chemicals, abrasives, ceramic inks or adhesive films. Also see Etched Glass.
- **GLUECHIPPED GLASS:** Glass that is covered with glue and then dried in an oven. The glue shrinks and pulls chips out of the glass surface leaving a delicate, random, feathery, fern-like texture. This process can be repeated for a denser “double chip” appearance.
- **LAMINATED GLASS:** This process bonds two layers of plate glass that have plastic sheeting between the layers, which adheres to the glass so that, if broken, it will remain in one piece, rather than falling free and potentially causing injury. It is used for both safety and sound reduction.
- **LASER ETCHED:** Decorative glass that has had an image engraved into the surface using laser technology. Laser etching can provide a high detail, crisp engraved image. Employs heat to etch the glass surface.
- **“LEADED GLASS:** (whether CLEAR or STAINED glass is used within the design), is fabricated by connecting pieces of glass with a lead channel and soldering at the intersection. Glass pieces are combined to form decorative or pictorial design, set in the lead framework.
- **PAINTED GLASS:** A coating applied to glass that is virtually opaque and available in various solid and metallic colors.
- **REEDED GLASS:** Glass with uniform parallel ridges. Ridges can be at different widths, such as 1/4” or 1/2’ wide.
- **SEEDY GLASS:** Glass that contains small bubbles or “seeds”.
- **STAINED GLASS:** Colored glass assembled into leaded glass designs. The color comes from the addition of metallic oxides during the process of melting the glass ingredients. The name comes from the silver nitrate that was used in the Middle Ages to “stain” clear glass yellow or orange when fired.
- **TEMPERED GLASS:** Glass that is “tempered” has been STRENGTHEND by reheating it to just below the melting point and then suddenly cooling it. When shattered, it breaks into small pieces rather than large, dangerous shards. Tempered glass is approximately five times stronger than standard annealed glass and is required as safety glazing in entry and patio doors, sidelights, and other hazardous locations. It cannot be recut after tempering.