

Glass Glossary



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AppliquéPicture
Pending

When blobs of glass are applied to an object. They can be applied anywhere on the object surface.

Bead

Small, central biconical perforation, made from bone, shell, ceramic, glass, or stone.

Descriptors: Blue, Brown, Decorated, Decorated Anthro/Zoomorphic, Embossed, Facetted, Green, Maker's Mark, Opaque, Perforated, Red, Seam, Seeded, Translucent, Transparent

Blown

The technique of forming an object by inflating a gob of molten glass gathered on the end of a blowpipe. The gaffer blows through the tube, slightly inflating the gob, which is then manipulated into the required form by swinging it, rolling it on a marver, or shaping it with tools or in a mold; It is then inflated to the desired size. This can be identified by looking for a pontil mark on the base.

Bottle

A vessel made for holding liquids. Has a narrow opening and can have a handle.

Descriptors: Appliqué, Blue, Brown, Decorated, Decorated Anthro/Zoomorphic, Embossed, Facetted, Green, Maker's Mark, Opaque, Paper Label, Perforated, Pontil Mark, Red, Seam, Seeded, Shard Basal, Shard Body, Shard Foot, Shard Handle, Shard Neck, Shard Rim, Threaded, Translucent, Transparent, Vessel,

Bottle, Round BasePicture
Pending

In addition to round bases the bottle will have a one flat side so that it can be set on a table without rolling.

Descriptors: Same as Bottle

Bottle, Turn Mold BasePicture
Pending

The bottles are seamless and round in cross section. The base can range from a slight indent to a large one where the bottom of the bottle has been greatly pushed back inside the bottle.

Descriptors: Same as Bottle.

BowlPicture
Pending

Round dish used for holding liquids. For measurement instructions, see appendix E.

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Button

Small perforated disk or knob for attaching to an article, such as clothing, that serves as a fastening device when slipped through a button hole or loop.

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Embossed

Raised letters, symbols, or decoration created on the glass through blowing, pressing, or machine-made.

Flat Glass

Windows and mirrors are products of flat glass. Manufactured by the crown, cylinder or plate methods. It can sometimes be decorated, have a prisms effect where one surface is smooth while the other has a parallel series of prisms, or have wire embedded in the glass.

Heat Treated

Glass that has been exposed to heat after it has become an object. Examples would be melted glass and pitted glass.

JarPicture
Pending

Wide mouth vessel that has or had a lid. The inside lip of jar will often be threaded. Jars will not have spouts.

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Lid

Used to close a vessel

Maker's Mark

A letter, number, or symbol placed on an object by its maker to identify its creator or origin.

Marble

Small round ball.



Descriptors: Blue, Brown, Green, Maker's Mark, Opaque, Red, Seam, Seeded, Translucent, Transparent, White

Molded

A manufacturing technique by which a form is used to mold the molten glass into a desired shape.

Opaque

Impenetrable to light.

Painted

Coated or decorated with paint (solid coloring matter mixed with liquid)

Pane

A piece of flat sheet glass.

Paper Label

When a paper label is attached to the vessel.

Perforated

Describes an object that has a hole all the way through.

Pontil Mark

Picture
Pending

Pontil marks appear on the bottom of a vessel. They occur due to blown manufacture where the rod was detached after it was done being blown. They can appear rough if left unfinished or if polished will be smooth with a shallow concavity.

Press Mould

Glass formed by placing a blob of molten glass into a metal mold. Then pressing it with a metal plunger to form the inside shape. Seams are sharp and distinct. Will show signs of disturbance on the surface texture of the glass. Pontil mark will often be invisible as it was polished out. This type of manufacture is not widely used for commercial containers, usually found in ink wells, and tableware.

Seam

Caused from being blown into a mold. Can occur part way or the entire length of the vessel.

Seeded

Minute bubbles of gas, usually occurring in groups.

Shard, Basal



Bottom portion of a vessel is known as a basal shard. Vessel bases occur in three basic forms: pointed, rounded, or flat. Basal shards are usually the thickest shards from a vessel.

Shard, Body



Body shards typically lack morphological attributes and occur as either flat or slightly curved. The curvature of body shards can serve as an indication of the general vessel shape.

Shard, Foot

The foot is the bottom of the stemware beneath the stem.

Picture
Pending

Shard, Handle

The handle is attached to the side used for holding the vessel.

Picture
Pending

Shard, Neck

Picture
Pending

The narrowed portion of the vessel between the rim and the body.

Shard, Rim

Rims typically refer to the vessel opening. Rims are usually described in terms of their profile.

Shard, Stem

Picture
Pending

The stem is the portion of a drinking vessel between the foot and the bowl.

Stemware

A general term used for vessels consisting of a foot, a stem, and a bowl.

Stopper

Used to plug the top of a bottle.

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Threaded

When an object exhibits a helical ridge that covers the lip of object for attaching lid.

Translucent

Permitting light to pass through but diffusing it so that objects on other side are not clearly visible.

Transparent

Having the property of transmitting rays of light through a substance so that objects situated beyond or behind can be distinctly seen.

Tumbler



A drinking vessel. They usually have a plain rim, and a circular horizontal cross section.

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Zoomorphic, Embossed, Faceted, Green, Maker's Mark, Opaque, Pontil Mark,
Raised Relief, Red, Seam, Seeded, Shard Basal, Shard Body, Shard Rim Trans-
lucent, Transparent, White

Vessel

A hollow utensil used for holding liquids.