

10 TOP TIPS

Glass Etching



Barb Bosler
etchall

1 What is glass etching? Glass etching is the eating into or erosion of a piece of glass in selected areas to produce a desired design. This can be achieved by sandblasting or using an etching cream or etching dip.

2 What kind of glass can I etch with the cream or dip? You can etch clear or colored glass ... from etching a design on the finest crystal or recyclable glass from you grocery store or garage sale ... from personalizing drinking glasses to logos on store windows. ... from matting the tiniest seed beads to decorating your sliding glass doors ... from etching vehicle identification numbers on automobile windows to copying your wallpaper pattern on your mirror or ceramic tile. The possibilities are endless!

3 Can I etch "Pyrex" with etching cream or dip? No, with a however! Pyrex is a borosilicate glass which is one of the hardest texture of glass made, therefore preventing the etching material to react. Now for the however ... if you sandblast the Pyrex glass first, you can then use the etching products to give the Pyrex sandblasted surface that smooth even "fingerprint proof" finish.

4 Is the etching permanent? Yes, the cream etching and dip etching products actually eat into the glass making it permanent. Therefore ... BE CAREFUL ... always cover all exposed areas you do not want etched. Once the glass surface is etched, it cannot be removed.

5 What is an etching resist? A resist for etching is anything that keeps the etching cream or dip from touching any part of the glass surface you do not want etched. A resist can be self adhesive paper, self adhesive precut stencils, self adhesive ink stencils, dried paint or glue and even the embossed image of a rubber stamp.

6 Can I etch mirror, glazed surfaces and porcelain as well as glass? Yes. A mirror is glass with two coatings on the back. The first coating is usually a copper film, the second is a paint to keep the copper from tarnishing. You will be etching the glass surface of the mirror. The etching products will etch into the glazed surface on ceramics and porcelain leaving a decorative design.

7 Can I paint on the etched surface? Yes. The etching gives the "tooth" or texture that is needed to hold acrylic or oil paints on a glass surface. Etching creams and dips also give the texture to the glass to rubber stamp (permanent ink) and emboss on.

8 Can I etch on a round surface? Yes. Apply your stencil just as you would on a flat surface. Just before pouring on etching cream, cut four strips of self adhesive paper and pinch the corners to form a well (dam/border) around your pattern.

9 Can I put an etched glass or plate in the dishwasher? Yes, you can. The etching is permanent.

10 Is it safe to eat or drink from an etched container? Yes, once the glass has been etched and washed thoroughly it is safe to eat or drink from.



This exquisite etched and painted glass is from the *etchall* book *Glass Etching Techniques* by Barb Bosler.