



Glass Campus

CMC Fusing Gel

(Carboxyl Methyl Cellulose)

CMC (carboxyl methyl cellulose) is an organic material used by potters and glass artists as a binding agent and by chefs as a thickening agent the way they use flour or corn starch.

Making CMC Fusing Gel

1 pint of water and 2 tablespoons of CMC powder.

- Bring water to a full boil.
- Stir in CMC powder.
- Allow to set for several hours to produce a transparent gel.

Using CMC gel

Because CMC gel burns off completely during a kiln firing it has many valuable uses for glass art.

Temporary glue.

You can use it to hold pieces of glass together while you carry them to your kiln.

Mixing with Powders.

You can mix enamels, glass powder or mica into the gel to apply like paint. A mix of equal parts by volume of dry powder and gel is recommended but a little experimentation is always fun. A unique feature of CMC gel is it can be thinned with water to produce a more liquid medium and still work well as a binding agent.

Liquid Stringer

You can mix CMC gel 4 parts powder to 1 part gel to create a thick paste to be applied with a nozzle tip bottle or cake decorator.

Stencils.

You can apply a stencil to glass, paint on CMC gel and sprinkle on enamels, glass powder or enamels. Leave it an hour or more for the gel to dry then remove the stencil to leave a pattern ready to fire in your kiln to fuse to the glass.