



## Fusing & Slumping

### Cutting Glass

Glass is sharp and can produce serious cuts. Always take care and pay special attention when cutting glass. Don't panic when you cut yourself. If you work with glass, some cuts are inevitable. Just try to keep them small. Use a brush to sweep up glass bits from the table. Your hand makes a handy tool for doing this but blood from all the glass cuts makes a mess on the table.

### Glass Slivers

Like glass cuts, getting a glass sliver in your hand is inevitable if you work with glass. No reason to worry. They come out easy.

### Safety Glasses

Unless you think a visit to the nearest clinic or ER to remove a piece of glass from your eye would be an interesting adventure, always wear safety glasses when cutting or grinding glass. Your prescription glasses are better than nothing but glasses with wider lenses are better.

### Kiln Burns

When firing to full temperature, a kiln gets extremely hot. Touching one can cause a minor burn. Leaning against one can cause a major burn. Don't do that. Human skin smells vile when it burns.

### Opening the Kiln

If you open a kiln lid, do NOT look in when it's hot. The heat flash can sear off any hair on your face (like eyebrows) and seriously burn skin. If you work inside a kiln with metal tools either turn the power off or take special care to not touch the electrified elements. If you want to electrocute yourself, poking your finger into a light socket is more efficient.

### Powders

Glass powder, enamel powder and mica powder are extremely fine and can be easily inhaled. Once inhaled they remain like an unwanted house guest and can be seriously destructive to lung tissue. Damaged lungs are a nuisance. When working with powders either take special care to avoid inhaling any or wear a protective dust mask.

### Dusts

It's important to know the difference between nuisance dusts and hazardous dusts. Dust from plaster, kiln paper and kiln wash are nuisance dusts. Unpleasant but not dangerous. Glass dust and dust from ceramic fiber paper, ceramic fiber blanket and silica powder are hazardous. They should be handled the same as powders. Wear a dust mask.

Be especially careful to avoid inhaling glass dust. When you clean up glass dust do it with a wet sponge or cloth. If inhaled, it can cause serious and permanent damage to your lungs. You can't just go to the hospital and have it vacuumed out. Once it's in, like asbestos, it's there forever. Protect your lungs – wear a dust mask or keep the glass dust wet.