

## Shipping Glass

There are 4 things you MUST remember when shipping glass:

### It must not bend

Of course, glass won't bend - it'll break instead. To be sure this doesn't happen to your glass, you must "sandwich" it between two sheets of some rigid material. Plywood will work, but sheet styrofoam is best. It's strong, rigid and lightweight. I recommend either 1 ½" or 2" thick. It comes in 2'x8' and 4'x8" sheets.

Styrofoam can be cut with a saw, or it can be scored and broken the same as glass. To do this, make a cut with a utility knife about ½" deep. Place the sheet on a table or counter top with the cut along the edge of the table and the cut upward. Then quickly press down and crack it off at the score. This is done exactly the same way a glazier breaks a scored sheet of window glass, or a drywall breaks a cut on a sheet of gyproc (sheetrock).

With small pieces, you can also just crack it over your knee.

### It must not be hit

Of course not. If you hit it, you'll break it. To be sure this doesn't happen you must pack it with shock absorbing material around it. The best material for absorbing shock is soft foam cushioning. The kind used for pillows or mattresses. You can buy it by the sheet, but the shops that sell foam mattresses also usually have scraps for sale. These will work just as well. Take your "sandwich" and pack it in a carton large enough that there is at least 3" of cushioning on all 6 sides. You don't have to fill the entire side with a sheet of soft foam. A strip every foot or so will be enough. This will be very much like the 2x4 framework used for building houses. Just so that there is something to absorb any force that hits the outside of the carton.

Shredded newsprint (excelsior), soft styrofoam chips, or "bubblewrap" will also make excellent packing material. Styrofoam peanuts are useless. If you use these, they will vibrate off to one side of your package - leaving your precious glass cargo unprotected on the other side.

### It will get dropped

The Post Office and all the freight companies use mechanical conveyor belts to handle packages. It is not uncommon to have packages drop as much as 12 feet down off the end of one of these conveyors. Your package must be able to stand up to this drop.

### It won't be insured

The company you ship with will probably be happy to sell you damage insurance on your shipment. But, if you ever try to collect on it, they'll refuse. Stained glass is not covered by insurance. The ONLY insurance you have is the way you package it.

