



Vitrigraph

Use tools

The glass is coming out at 1700° F (925° C). That's more than hot enough to dissolve any flesh it touches. Be careful. Don't touch it. Either wear gloves or use tools that allow you to handle the glass without it touching your skin. If you decide to work with gloves, take care to not rely too much on them. When it first leaves the kiln the glass is hot enough to even scorch welding gloves. If you must touch the glass at all with gloves, do so only when it is at least 24" (60 cm) away from the pot and even then only on the thinnest parts of the glass.

Unless you're thrilled with the idea of creating a pattern of scar tissue on your hands from having the flesh seared by hot glass, take care to not touch the glass with bare hands. As a safety guideline I will not touch any glass from a vitrigraph for at least one hour after it leaves the kiln. It takes a while for the glass to cool enough to be safe to touch. If you're not positive it's been long enough to cool, wait longer.

Safety Glasses

Always wear safety glass when pulling glass from a vitrigraph. Small bits of hot glass sometimes fly off when you cut the melt stream. A little scar on your face might make for an interesting story but if you catch a piece in your eye, eye patches are no longer considered a cool fashion accessory.

Clothing

Do not wear any material like nylon or polyester – unless you think it would be an exciting fun experience to have it melted onto you. Cover up as much as you can. Any exposed skin risks having a piece of hot glass projected onto it. Pay special attention to open collars or loose fit shirts or tops.

Footwear

Avoid open toed shoes. Any dance resulting from dropping a piece of hot glass onto your toes will not be a happy dance.

Watch for Glass Spit

Did you know camel's like to spit? Not a nice thing. When a stream of hot glass is cut it sometimes likes to spit. That's a lot more not nice.

Hair

Human hair burns and smells vile when it burns. If you have long hair, tie it back so it can't brush against the stream of hot glass.

Work Surface

When it first leaves the kiln the molten glass is hot enough to ignite anything combustible. If you're working over something combustible like a wood table be sure it's a safe distance from the kiln. Wood 24 inch (60 cm) from the kiln is close enough to sear from the hot glass but will not ignite. If you want to work closer, use something like metal or ceramic board that can't ignite.

Protect the Cord

Be sure the cord to your kiln is not hanging down where hot glass can fall against it. That molten glass is more than hot enough to melt through the plastic or rubber protective coating and expose the bare wire.

Clear the Way

As the molten glass falls to the floor or table top, move it out of the way to make room for the glass still coming down. If you just let it pile up, there a good chance the pile will fall over onto something you don't want it touching. Like you.

Spectators

Anyone watching a vitrigraph pour or pull should be warned to stay a safe distance away.