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CONTENT



GLASS

Glass is a transparent material that can be melted down and molded into solid shapes. It is made from sand, soda ash, and limestone, but other minerals like silica and barium can be added to manipulate its color, durability, and thickness. Glass with a low mineral count is non-porous, which makes glass dishwasher safe and heat-resistant.

Glass and crystal are both made by being heated in a furnace until molten. They are then blown by a glassblower and shaped into the desired designs. However, the two materials do feature various differences, from their chemical composition and weight down to how they refract light and reverberate sound.



CRYSTAL

Crystal glass is a transparent material made with the same ingredients as glass, but with added lead-oxide or metal-oxide. The additional ingredients make the crystal retain its integrity even when cut or blown. The added ingredients in crystal glass makes the material slightly porous, giving it the ability to refract light brilliantly. However, this also means that the material is not dishwasher safe.

CLEANING & POLISHING

Dishwasher Safe Glasses: Check the water hardness at the location of use, then regulate the water hardness range for the dishwasher. Use a dishwasher rack so the glasses will avoid contact with each other, pots, cutlery, and other dishes. Load glasses into the correct size glass rack, and position the glasses so that they are free draining. By positioning the glasses correctly, it can prevent unwanted marks or stains from forming on the glasses. Place the glass rack into the glass washer and set washing preferences of choice and start the cycle. Open dishwasher briefly at the end of its cycle to let steam pass. Avoid opening fully until dishwasher has cooled.

Hand Wash Only Glasses: Do not use any harsh cleaning utensils such as steel wool pad to wash glassware as this will cause scratches. Rinse the glass in another sink to remove extra traces of food or detergent. *When hand washing glasses make sure to use a soft surface material, like a microfiber cloth.*

Crystal Glasses: Line a sink with a dish towel or soft cloth and fill warm water. The soft lining helps to prevent cracks or breaks. Use a mild detergent to wash out the glasses one at a time. Rinse with a vinegar-water solution and sanitize. The vinegar-water solution can help remove any existing water spots and prevent future spots. *All crystal, unless otherwise noted, should be hand washed. This helps to cut down on the damage done by dishwashers and tough detergents.*

DRYING: It is best to dry glasses with a linen towel or a microfiber cloth immediately after cleaning. Be sure to pay attention to the thickness of the glass while cleaning to avoid applying too much pressure and to prevent damaging the glass. Keep fingers from coming into contact with the inside of the glass while drying to prevent leaving prints on the glass. Make sure to hold the glass by the bowl. Holding the glass by the stem or base could result in breakage, so it is best to avoid grabbing the glass at either of these points. Use the cloth to gently dry the glass. Do not use excessive pressure. Run the cloth along the outside of the glass as the final step to clean away and fingerprints.

IMPORTANT SAFEGUARDS

AVOID MECHANICAL SHOCK: Mechanical shock happens when a glass comes into contact with utensils or another glass. Any contact with another object can compromise the strength of the glass. To reduce the amount of mechanical shock, store glasses in the correct size glass racks.

AVOID THERMAL SHOCK: This occurs when a glass experiences a quick and drastic change in temperature. Taking a dish right from the dishwasher and filling it with ice and water is one common way that thermal shock occurs. Always adjust glasses to different temperatures slowly by letting them change to room temperature first.

- **DO NOT** Hold stemware by the bowl or foot. Any pressure placed on these locations can cause cracks or breaks. Hold stemware by the stem of the glass; this is the strongest part.
- **DO NOT** carry glasses in bouquets. Carry one glass in each hand and use dollies, racks, or serving trays if moving multiple glasses at once.
- **DO NOT** stack glasses unless they nest. Only stack nesting glassware.
- **DO NOT** place silverware inside of glasses. The metal scrapes the glass through mechanical shock. This creates weak spots that will eventually cause the glass to break. Place silverware in designated silverware bins rather than in glasses.
- **DO NOT** store glasses on hard surfaces. This can cause chipping and cracking. Use properly sized glass racks for storage and cleaning purposes. This is the best way to protect the glass during washing and storage.
- **DO NOT** expose glassware to an open element or electric plate and do not place it in the oven. Normal glass can withstand temperature changes of 42 degrees, and tempered glass can withstand temperature changes of 130 degrees.

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