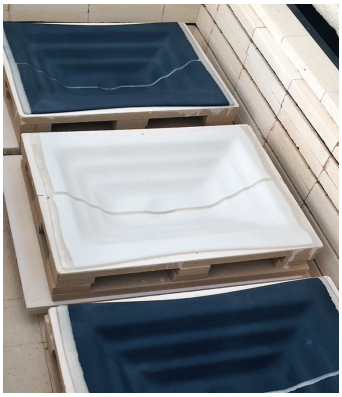
How Your Glass Sink is Made

Different methods can be employed to create a glass sink. Using a slumping process, the glass is laid onto a mold and heated to the point where it “slumps” to fit the mold and create the desired design. The glass is heated and cooled throughout the process to ensure the strength and durability of the sink. The final product can require hours of painstaking labor.

STEP 1 Multiple pieces of glass are cut and carefully stacked. The size and shape of the sheets will determine the final size of the sink being created.

STEP 2 The glass sheets are heated in a kiln to fuse them into a single sheet. The heating strengthens the glass making it 5-7 times stronger than normal unheated glass.



STEP 3 The glass sheet is put on a special mold and put back in the kiln for 24 hours. This is where it is slumped to the sink form.

STEP 4 The sink is sandblasted and then put back in the kiln for fire polishing to obtain a smooth surface and satin finish. It’s then slowly cooled to anneal the glass and prevent thermal shock.

STEP 5 The glass sink is cold worked while at room temperature. A diamond bit drill and sander are used to create the drain hole.

STEP 6 Metal leaf is hand applied once the glass surface has been coated with an adhesive. The leafing is gently tapped into place then brushed for even application.

YOUR SINK
BY THE NUMBERS

72
Hours spent in a kiln

1,500 °F
Average kiln temperature

6
Hours spent cold working

5
Total days to create sink

Artifacts of the Handmade Glass Process

All handmade glass sinks are expected to have these inherent and unique markings.

Key Terms

Églomisé (ay-glo-mees-ay)
French for gilded glass, it is a decorative technique in which gold or other metal leaf is applied to the back side of a piece of glass. Decoration of this type has been made since the Roman Empire.

Annealing
The process of slowly cooling hot glass objects after they have been formed, in order to remove internal stresses and prevent thermal shock.

Slumped
The process of reheating glass until it becomes soft and gradually flows under its own weight over or into a mold.

Hand-rolled
The forming of sheet glass by hand rolling liquid glass into a sheet.

Seed
A small pocket of gas trapped in glass during manufacture.

Cold Working
Trimming, sanding, drilling and grinding when the glass is cold.

A Brief History of Glassmaking

In the 5,500 years since glass was first discovered it has been used to create incredibly stunning and highly practical objects and now forms an essential part of our everyday lives.

3500 BCE
The first evidence of manmade glass objects were found in Egypt and Eastern Mesopotamia.

1600 BCE
Manmade vessels were produced in Mesopotamia for the first time during the early Bronze Age.

650 BC
First glassmaking manual was written and later found in the library of the Assyrian King Ashurbanipal.

250 BC
Babylonians discovered that molten glass can be blown into shapes enabling glass vessels to be produced more easily.

50 BC
The Phoenicians used glass to create art.

100 AD
Due to a rapid expansion of glassmaking during the Roman Empire, glass became commonly available throughout Europe.

1226
Broad sheet glass was first produced in Sussex, England.