

Glass Compatibility

Compatibility is when two different pieces of glass are similar enough they will fuse together. It includes both COE (coefficient of expansion) – the rate at which glass expands and contracts as it heats and cools as well as VISCOSITY – how and when the glass softens in response to heat. If the different pieces of glass expand and contract too differently or soften at too different a temperature, they will be incompatible and won't fuse. Extremely incompatible glass will refuse to fuse at all. Slightly incompatible glass may appear to fuse but might contain stress fractures that can cause it to come apart. The separation could happen right away, days later, or even next year. You can experiment with different glass and test for compatibility but most artisans prefer the safety and convenience of using only glass that has been certified as "tested compatible".