

Identifying Tin Side

Modern distortion-free window glass (Float Glass) is made by floating molten glass on a bed of molten tin. During the glass making process, a small amount of tin is absorbed by the glass where it's in contact with the tin. This side of the finished glass is referred to as the "tin side". The other side is referred to as the "air side". If you want to use float glass for kilnforming, you need to identify the tin side. The tin side is more susceptible to devitrification so if you want to slump float glass or to fuse onto float glass, you should put the tin side facing down.

The best way to identify the tin side is with ultraviolet (UV) light. You can use a UV flashlight, fluorescent bulb, or anything that produced UV light. Hold the light source beneath the glass at a 45° angle to the glass. If the tin side is facing down, you'll see a slight blue-white fluorescence. Turn the glass over and repeat this to confirm which is the tin side.

IMPORTANT....when doing this test, **DO NOT** look directly at the UV light source. Exposure to UV light may cause serious vision problems