

Histoglass

Historic Glass Types

*Genuine Historic Glass Types
for use with Histoglass Thin
Double Glazing Systems*



There is no substitute!

Perhaps the most noticeable and yet misunderstood feature of a historic building is that of its glass and the way it influences both the atmosphere and ambience of the building. The influence of glass can be seen both internally and externally, working in a reflective and refractive capacity.

We have all of the glass types made specially for us according to the old recipes and production techniques.

We don't offer imitations. The ream and seed in old glass types has a certain density, frequency and pattern and cannot be imitated.

Note: the glass types MD, GD and Cylinder Glass have the same characteristics as 'old glass' and will have the same imperfections (bubbles, fold marks, waves). These imperfections are an integral part of the character of the glass. They are hand-made and no 2 pieces look the same.

Float Glass (Modern Glass)

Late 1950s onwards

(also in toughened and laminated)

This type of glass is most commonly seen in buildings constructed from the 1960s onwards. With modern production techniques, float glass can easily be turned into safety glass. There are two main types: toughened (or tempered) and laminated. For the glazing of windows and doors below 800mm, laminated or toughened glass should be considered. We will be happy to assist you with this.

(Only supplied in Histoglass Thin Double Glazing systems.)

Machine Drawn Glass (MD)

Approx. 1915-1960

Our Machine Drawn Glass is made according the Fourcault principle. The Belgian Émile Fourcault invented a manufacturing process in which glass could be drawn directly from the tank at the working end of the furnace. The débiteuse, a boat-shaped slotted block made of refractory material, is pushed down into the molten glass. As the hot extruded glass rises through the slot it is grasped by the iron bait. The cooled glass then adheres to the bait and is pulled upward between water-cooled tubes, during which time it anneals. When it reaches the top of the machine, it is cut by automatic cutters.



Hand Drawn Glass (GD)

Approx. 1860-1920

In the early 1860s a method was developed to produce cylinder glass more quickly and easily. Molten glass was poured into a large bowl (or crucible) and a hot metal bait was dipped into this molten glass. Then the bait was drawn slowly in an upward motion, drawing a large glass cylinder after it. It has fewer imperfections than the preceding cylinder glass, but the upward draw gives it a wavy character. Most Victorian properties would have a version of this GD glass.



Cylinder Glass

Approx. 1700-1860

Though difficult to date exactly, both crown and cylinder glass were used alongside each other until the 20th century. Crown glass was dominant until the late 1700s after which cylinder glass was commonly used. Unfortunately, the exact recipes and production techniques for crown glass have been lost and genuine crown glass is no longer made. This leaves cylinder glass as the only acceptable alternative.

Cylinder glass is made by a craftsman blowing a bottle-shaped cylinder. Once the cylinder is ready, the two ends are cut off and the cylinder is scored. This allows the cylinder, when reheated, to flap open and give a flat piece of glass, which is then annealed. This glass has a fair amount of imperfections and the ream and seed give it its distinctive characteristics.

Please have a look on our website for a short video on how our cylinder glass is made.

Obscured Glass

Obscured Glass is also known as textured, diffused or privacy glass. The most-used option for privacy is matt etched glass. For historic applications we have access to an extensive range of obscured glass, available in a vast array of colours, patterns and textures.

It can be used in combination with our full range of Histoglass Thin Double Glazing units.

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