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Experience the Uniqueness of Bubble Glass by Eric Blair

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Take an inventory of all the glass items in your home. How many different varieties do you own? Most common are mirrors and kitchenware. Itâ€™s hard to imagine any home without at least one mirror, one plate and one drinking glass. There are many variations of glass use, from ornate mirrors to chandeliers to vases. Then there are the numerous types of figurines made from glass. These could be the exquisite and expensive type of design, from classic Italian artisans to some less expensive â€œpreciousâ€• variety of glass animals or angels. A lot of our personality is reflected in th type of glass items we have in our home. A real distinction can be made with the inclusion of bubble glass.

As you might infer from its title, bubble glass is glass with bubbles. While it might seem odd to intentionally add bubbles into glass, itâ€™s actually a distinct design element which can give a whole new look and feel to a common glass item. Most bubble glass manufactured today comes from recycled materials. Yes, all those glass pickle jars you put into your recycle bin could end up as an extremely decorative item in someoneâ€™s home. As with any instance of glass manufacturing, extremely high temperatures are needed to make the glass malleable. At that high temperature phase, gas can get trapped in the molten material. Unless that gas is given an escape route, bubbles are formed. You could also create this same effect by adding certain chemicals into the mix or literally poking holes into the glass as it is forming.

Whatâ€™s interesting about antique bubble glass is that each piece created truly becomes one of a kind. This uniqueness is enhanced by introducing different color patterns and shapes. By bending the glass with bubbles, you can create some amazing lighting effects. Even simple sunlight bouncing off of bubble glass can create a rainbow of reflections throughout an entire room.

Artists have been using the â€œaccidentâ€• of bubbles in glass to build amazing pieces of artwork, most notably the Czech glass artist Emanuel Bernanek, who formed the Bernanek Glassworks Factory with his brothers back in 1940. Today, the glass pieces that were formed in that factory are some of the most sought after examples of art glass in the world.

Today, youâ€™ll find bubble glass being used in all kinds of designs, including plates, jugs, tumblers and bottles. Bubble glass is also the go-to type of glass for delicate items like perfume bottles or chandeliers. Many architects are turning to this type of glass to include in their structures for doors, windows and even entire walls. Bubble glass encased in an antique oval frame is now being used by many home decorators to bring a distinct accent to any room.

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