Top Ten Things
To Do with Scrap Glass

Every art classroom with a glass program has scrap glass. Whether it is stained glass, fusible glass or even float glass there are ways to stretch your budget using leftover glass. We have compiled a list of ten ways to utilize scrap glass.

1. **Fused Scrap Bowls and Plates**
   Beautiful bowls and plates can be made by using wheeled nippers to nip chunks of colored and clear fusible glass. If a thick blank is desired use a steel ring as a dam, or lay out glass in two layers overlapping for uneven edges and pile glass on shelf paper (Item # 7405 or 54720). If your piece needs to be a specific size, use a pencil to trace the mold so the glass piece is not too large for the mold you will be using. For more interest, stringers and noodles can also be added. Fuse using a regular fusing schedule to 1450°F. Coldwork the rim of the piece for a finished look and slump. The bowls make excellent items for fundraising!

2. **Mosaic Flower Pot**
   One of the great things about mosaics is almost any solid surface can be used as a base and any glass can be used in the design. Clay pots are inexpensive, readily available and the porous surface serves as a great base. *(NOTE: If using a non-porous surface, be sure to “rough” up the surface with sandpaper so that the adhesive can grip onto the material.)* First, draw a design on a clay flower pot. Using Weldbond adhesive, (Item #65106), paint a layer of diluted glue on the pot. While allowing the glue to dry, prepare the glass by either cutting or nipping the glass to desired shapes and sizes. Glue glass pieces to the pot using Weldbond. We recommend Weldbond because it is easy to work with, is non-toxic and dries clear. Allow 24 hours for the glued design to dry, and finish the project by applying grout.
3. Decorate an Old Window

Repurposing found items is a great way to create art within the confines of a strict budget. Using old windows as a base for artwork can be a great platform for either an individual or group project. **(NOTE: Windows with wood frames made before 1978 may contain lead paint. To protect students from lead content, coat the wood with a product such as Clear Coat (Item #7404ALT or 74041). This will encapsulate the lead and render the painted wood harmless.)** Decorate the window by gluing colored glass on the pane(s) to make a beautiful display. Start by drawing a design on the window using a black marker. Mark each section with the intended color. After completing the design, turn the window over and glue the pieces of glass onto the window pane(s). The glass can be cut using a glass cutter or wheeled nippers. Weldbond adhesive is strong and dries clear and works well for this type of project. After the glue is dry and has set (usually 24 to 48 hours) the window can be grouted.

4. Make Frit

By using a frit piston (Item #63998) and frit sifter (Item #63999) students can easily make frit and save money at the same time. This is a great way to use up small pieces of fusible glass and add interest to fused art work. Students can customize frit with different colors and coarsenesses for added depth and detail in their artwork.

5. Make a Stacked Tree

Making a glass tree with stacked pieces of glass is a fun project for any skill level. Simply cut squares in graduated sizes. Start by cutting (4) 3"-4" squares then continue cutting squares reducing ¼" until you are down to ½". Use an abrasive stone (Item #5169) or diamond hand file (Item #60145) to remove any burrs or sharp edges from the glass. Next, glue the squares together using Weldbond glue, turning each square a quarter turn. Glue 5-6 pieces at a time and allow the glue to set. Try not to use too much glue or the pieces will slide and become difficult to stack evenly.

6. Fused Glass Pebbles

A great way to use small pieces of fusible scrap glass is to make dots and pebbles. There are hundreds of uses for dots and they can easily be made anytime there is extra space in the kiln when running a full fuse. Take small pieces of fusible glass and lay out on shelf paper (Item #7405 or 54720) so that the pieces are not touching. The glass pieces will fuse into round pebbles and dots that can be used for decoration on projects.
7. Make Sea Glass
Any glass can be tumbled to resemble sea glass. Broken pieces of colored jars and bottles, scrap pieces of stained or fusible glass, and broken household glass items can be safely smashed and put in a tumbler (Item #93900 and 67502). Once tumbled with the frosted look of sea glass, the glass can be made into jewelry, wire wrapped, used in mosaic pieces or simply placed in a dish for decoration.

8. Tile a Wall
A plain wall can be made colorful and beautiful by using scrap glass to tile a wall. First, draw a pattern on the wall. Cut pieces into the desired size, or use random sizes to fill in the space like a puzzle. Rough up the painted wall with sandpaper. Then, using a pre-mixed mastic, trowel adhesive on the wall applying a thin coating of adhesive, working in small areas at a time. Set glass to the adhesive then firmly press and twist slightly to secure the glass in place. Continue this process until the wall is finished. After the glued glass is completely dry (usually within 24-48 hours) grout the wall. A plain wall becomes a work of art! Many art classes have tiled part of their school’s entrance with the school mascot or an inspirational design.

9. Sun Catchers
Making a colorful sun catcher with scrap glass can add color and beauty to any window. The glass pieces can be foiled and then soldered to give it a finished look. Solder a pre-tinned ring (Item # 130005) to the top of the sun catcher for hanging. If soldering isn’t an option, a dramatic look can be achieved by stringing many glass pieces together for a long stream of color pieces. The line of glass can be attached at the top of almost any object, such as driftwood, a sea shell, another piece of glass, etc.

10. Glass Snowflakes
Glass snowflakes are made using strips of clear or colored glass with color accents. They are usually made of strips and triangles cut in multiples of 6 pieces of glass. Because they are all straight line cuts, they are easy for beginners to make. There are many different sizes and patterns available in books or online. Snowflakes can either be fused or simply glued together. If fusing, be sure to use fusible glass.