



I. WHAT IS GLASS?

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GLASS IS...

- hard
- transparent
- workable in a hot state
- resistant to chemicals
- resistant to heat

NATURAL GLASS

Glass can be formed naturally without human intervention, e.g. during volcanic eruptions when magma is rapidly cooled.

INTRODUCTION

Glass is a material that we use daily for all manner of things –*Figure 1.1*. It is hard but brittle, remains unaffected by most liquids, is heat-resistant but sensitive to thermal shock. All materials have a range of characteristic properties. Plastic, for example, cannot withstand high temperatures, while metals are strong and wood is soft, etc. Even though all these properties may not be obvious at first glance, they may play an important role in determining the uses to which the material can be put.

The most obvious property of glass is that it allows light to pass. We can look through a window, and we can see the contents of a bottle

Figure 1.1 Examples of everyday glass: drinking glass, art glass and automobile glass.

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