



Hui Glassblowing Studio Safety

1. **Always train with an experienced glass blower.** Beginners should never attempt to do anything in the studio unless they have been properly taught and have acquired the skills to do the tasks safely. Glass blowing is a very involved process, and it's worth every penny of a glass blower's salary to learn how to handle molten material.
2. **Pay attention.** This is the most important rule in the glass blowing studio. Glass blowers must always give their full attention to what they are doing, as well as paying careful attention to what others nearby are doing. Letting your mind wander or bumping into someone with hot tools could have disastrous results.
3. **Always use the proper safety equipment.** Gloves, safety glasses, heat-resistant aprons and work boots are absolutely essential in the studio, and must be worn at all times.
4. **Assume that everything in the studio is hot.** Even objects not in direct contact with the furnace can still be hot enough to cause severe burns.
5. **Remember that un-annealed glass can explode at any time.** Keep hot glass at a distance from your body and use thick gloves and eye protection if you need to get near it.
6. **Do not wear synthetic clothing in the studio.** Synthetic fabrics are highly flammable, and they can melt and stick to the skin, causing severe burns. Thick cotton or wool are much safer alternatives.
7. **Don't wear watches or jewelry while blowing glass.** Metal can heat up easily, causing burns. Synthetic watches can melt onto your skin.
8. **Remember that working around furnaces can elevate your body temperature.** Working in the studio is like exercising outside during a heat wave. It is essential to stay hydrated. Take a break if you feel overheated.
9. **Always be prepared for an emergency.** Keep a first-aid kit nearby to tend to minor burns and injuries. Keep it stocked with cold compresses, bandages and antibacterial ointments. Make sure you know the proper way to treat severe burns.

By using common sense and following the necessary safety requirements, you can enjoy a long career in the magnificent art of glass blowing without suffering severe injuries.

What to WEAR to Class:

***Protective Eyewear:** Safety glasses from a hardware store are adequate protection or you can purchase glasses specifically for hot glass at a glass supply outlet.

***Close-Toed Shoes:** No sandals or flip flops.

***Cotton Clothing Only:** No synthetics. Some people like to protect their forearms from excess heat simply by wearing long sleeves. Arm protectors can also be made from cotton socks with the toe end cut off.

What to BRING to Class:

***Bottled Water.** "Hot Shops" are hot! You'll need to stay hydrated and will want to drink plenty of water on your way home as well as during class.

***Sketchbook and pen/pencil.** Good for taking notes and coming up with your own ideas.

***Studio Liability Waiver.** You will need to sign a Studio Liability Waiver before beginning work in the studio. If you are under 18, a parent/legal guardian must sign one. The form will be provided.

