

GLASS

STORAGE

Glass can be damaged by moisture caused by fluctuating temperatures and humidity. Keep storage condition stable, and make sure packing limits dust, which can attract moisture.

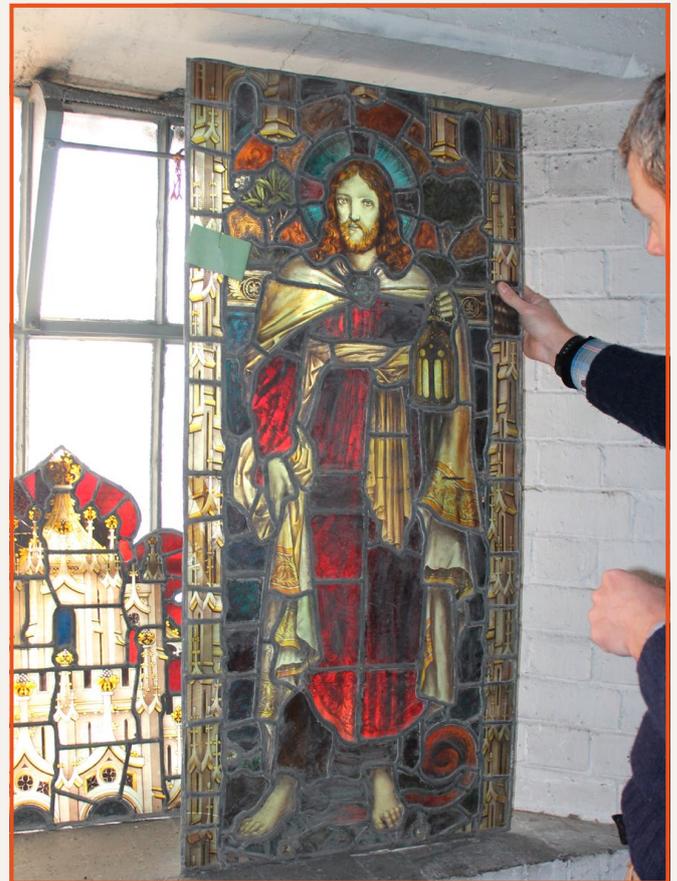
- ◆ Make sure glass is free of any pressure from its packing. Pad glass to protect it from vibration.
- ◆ Place sherds in polyethylene bags, laid flat so dislodged flakes remain in situ.
- ◆ Do not store glass in paper bags, foils or use cling film or tape.
- ◆ Never use silica gel.

LABELLING AND MARKING

- ◆ Undertake a documentation check to ensure that the information is correct before remains are marked.
- ◆ Ensure that marking is clear and legible.
- ◆ Avoid marking glass unless the surface is stable. Label bags or boxes instead.



Roman glass bowl © Museums Worcestershire



Stained glass window © Bristol Culture

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

- ◆ Temperature: 10–16°C.
- ◆ Humidity: 40–55%.
- ◆ Illuminance: 300 lux maximum.
- ◆ UV Radiation: 0–10 microwatts per lumen ideal. 75 microwatts per lumen maximum.

INDICATORS OF DECAY

- ◆ Lamination, flaking or crumbling.
- ◆ Change of colour.
- ◆ Weeping.
- ◆ Crizzling (fine cracks on surface).

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WHERE YOU WILL COME ACROSS GLASS

- ◆ Bottles, vessels.
- ◆ In archaeological excavation archives.
- ◆ Architectural features (such as window glass).

HANDLING

Glass is especially at risk from poor handling, vibration and mechanical shock, such as dropping.

- ◆ Avoid lifting by handles or parts that stick out. Handle objects over a padded surface. Support fragile areas with padding.
- ◆ Be aware of sharp edges and applied surfaces or decoration that may not be well adhered.
- ◆ Use nitrile gloves.

LOOK OUT FOR

- ◆ Glass that is part of composite objects. Glass can be a decorative element within other objects that need different storage and handling.
- ◆ Glass objects may have applied surface decorations (including metals, paint, enamels) that will deteriorate or corrode.
- ◆ Residues within glass vessels. Protect glass containing possible residues to prevent contamination.



Roman glass vase © Museums Worcestershire

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- ◆ Glass can have sharp break edges, handle with care.
- ◆ Crizzling can cause tiny, sharp flakes. Use gloves to avoid cuts. Handle with care!

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SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION

Collections Trust (2009). *Labelling and Marking Museum Objects*.

Cronyn, J. M. (1990) *The Elements of Archaeological Conservation*. London: Routledge

Historic England (2011) *Archaeological Evidence for Glassworking: Guidelines for Best Practice*. Swindon: Historic England

Institute of Conservation (ICON) (2011) *Care and Conservation of Archaeological Materials*.

Watkinson, D. and Neal, V. (1998) *First Aid for Finds* (Third Edition; London; Rescue/UKIC Archaeology Section, revised 2001)