

**VARI-ETCH FROSTING CREAM**  
 INFORMATION SHEET

Vari-Etch is a weak Fluoridic acid meant for frosting and etching glass material. Vari-Etch will not frost borosilicate glass or any variation thereof. It will also frost different colors at different rates. Vari-Etch will give a good even frost etch on most glass in around 4 to 5 minutes of surface contact. Deeper etches can be accomplished by longer exposure to the acid. Over time the Vari-Etch Cream will darken from a deep amber to dark brown color. There is nothing wrong with the cream and this is a normal progression for the chemical reaction of the material.

**THE VARI-ETCH PROCESS**

Vari-Etch Cream is sold in a ready-to-use form that can be applied to the glass surfaces immediately for frost etching the glass.

Vari-Etch cream can be applied to glass surfaces by painting, dropping, or screen printing onto the glass. 4 to 5 minutes of contact with most glass will produce a nicely frosted etch on the surface. It is very important the glass surfaces be well cleaned before using Vari-Etch as anything on the surface of the glass will act as a mask and prevent the Vari-Etch from adequately etching the glass surface.

Vari-Etch will also have a difficult time etching the tin side of float glass and will leave a mottled surface appearance. Once the Vari-Etch has been on the surface of the glass for roughly 5 minutes, you can scrap off the existing cream and replace it into the container and re-use it. It is recommended to shake up the cream container before each use to homogenize the mixture.

For cleaning the glass after removal from the acid solution, we recommend having a bucket of clean water with dissolved baking soda in the water mixture. Usually one small box per gallon of water is enough to neutralize the acid solution. Place your piece in the baking soda solution and clean well with a sponge or toothbrush. The baking soda solution may foam up as you work and this is a good indication that the solution is working to neutralize the acid solution on your glass.



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Vari-Etch Frosting Cream is available in Quart, and Gallon containers.



**3M BUTTERCUT**

Buttercut is an excellent masking agent for protecting parts of your glass from etching or for creating designs in your piece from the acid etch. Available by the square foot or in 12 inch and 24 inch rolls.



**SAFETY EQUIPMENT**

It is highly recommended to use safety equipment when working with Vari-Etch including safety glasses, nitrile gloves, aprons, and respirators.

After cleaning well in the baking soda solution, you will need a second bucket with clean fresh water to clean the piece in to fully remove any acid or baking soda solution from the surface of the glass. Be sure not to skip this step as the baking soda solution alone can leave unexpected results on the glass surface if left to dry.

Once cleaned thoroughly in the clean water bath, your piece is fully ready to be handled safely.

Vari-Etch will eventually reach a saturation point where it will not etch your glass any longer. When that time comes, you can dispose of the Vari-Etch by mixing 3/4 of a pound of baking soda into a quart of water and then slowly add the Vari-Etch cream to the baking side mixture until the pH reaches a 7.0 neutral amount. When mixing the baking soda solution to neutralize the Vari-Etch, please do so in a larger container and mix very slowly as bubbling of the material will occur.

Once the Vari-Etch has reached a neutral pH it can be flushed down the drain with a large flow of water. Please check and comply with your local regulations regarding the addition of fluoride ions to the wastewater system in case of larger disposal amounts.

## **STORAGE**

Vari-Etch should be stored in the original container when possible. If other containers must be used, inspect those containers for structural integrity and periodically inspect all storage containers for signs of potential loss of integrity. Move contents to fresh containers if any cracks or areas of possible leakage are found. Store in a cool, dry, well ventilated area.

## **SAFETY**

- Keep out of reach of children and pets
- This mixture is not safe to drink.
- Do not store this mixture in any container that may be mistaken for a food or drink container.
- Avoid contact with skin, eyes, and mouth. Wash your hands thoroughly with a pumice type soap and warm water after use. Remove any clothing that has come in contact with Vari-Etch solution and wash thoroughly.
- Application of hand cream after exposure is recommended.
- Protective eyewear and elbow length nitrile gloves are recommended. A plastic or rubber style apron is also recommended if splashing may occur.
- Do Not re-use this container for anything other than Vari-Etch Cream.
- The active ingredients in Vari-Etch Frosting Cream is Ammonium Bifluoride (ABF), 31% by weight (see MSDS sheet for full information), 69% inert ingredients.
- The liquid solution of Vari-Etch is pH 5.1
- No component of Vari-Etch Frosting Cream is listed as being carcinogenic
- Vari-Etch Frosting Cream is non-flammable.

For more information, please visit [support.hisglassworks.com](http://support.hisglassworks.com).

This information is provided without warranty regarding the results to be obtained from the use of Vari-Etch by the end user. User must determine suitability of this product for the intended application and assume all risk and liability in connection therewith

### **His Glassworks, Inc.**

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