



### Tricks of the Trade

*We want our customers to have a great experience and wonderful outcomes with our molds. Let us pass along these hints and advice.*



**1** Use Hotline Primo Primer. We tested many kiln washes and primers from a number manufactures. Only Hotline Primo Primer offered us the three properties that we required: thin, even coats that don't obscure the design; consistent release; and fired primer can easily be removed with a stiff brush.

Mix the powder with water according to the label instructions. Apply four to five thin coats to the mold's inside surface. Let each coat dry before applying the next. A hair dryer can be used to accelerate the drying between coats. Keep the primer well stirred. The primer's fine particles – the active components – settle out of the mixture rapidly. If the primer settles, the particles will start to cake on the container's bottom. Use a

stiff brush to stir the compacted particles off the bottom of the container and back into solution. It is not necessary to pre-fire the mold as long as the primer is dry.

**2** After firing the mold, use any nylon kitchen brush or a toothbrush to remove all traces of the primer from the mold. We strongly recommend wearing a dusk mask.

**3** Always follow the firing schedule recommended on our website and packaging. Colour de Verre molds are made from a specialized ceramic material. Like glass, this ceramic will crack or shatter if it is heated or cooled too fast.

**4** Finished pieces will have much smoother edges if you use a small brush to move the frit away from the top edge of the mold. This "trough" only has to be 1/8-inch wide and deep.

**5** Use only crushed art glass or frits in Colour de Verre molds. The molds are not designed for Pyrex glass, float glass, billets, nuggets, or crushed bottles. We don't recommend firing Colour de Verre molds above 1500°F (815°C). At higher temperatures, the primer will start to fuse and becomes more difficult to remove.

**6** If the finished piece doesn't fall out of the mold, don't panic. Turn mold face-down and tap it against a hard surface cushioned with several layers of newsprint. If the

piece still doesn't fall out, the mold probably wasn't properly primed.

**7** Occasionally, a few glass spurs might be on edges of the finished pieces. These are easily removed with a wet diamond block or grinder. Following hint #4 will minimize these.

**8** Butterflies, dragonflies, flowers, and leaves can be given more life with a second, slump firing. Some of our designs have a specially designed slumping surface on the reverse side.

**9** A "sugar fire" yields wonderful results with Colour de Verre snowflakes. Fill the mold to half of the recommended fill weight with fine frit. Fire to a "partial fuse" – about 1300°F (705°C). This technique can be used with any of our molds.

**10** Don't be afraid to experiment. Add CMC solution to your glass powders to make a *pate de verre* paste. Mixed crush dichroic with your frits. Tack fuse finished pieces to slumped plates and platters. Mix shredded copper, silver, or gold foil into your frits. Embed smaller forms inside of larger, clear forms. The possibilities are endless.

### Availability

*Colour de Verre molds are available at fine glass retailers and many online merchants including our online store, [www.colourdeverre.com](http://www.colourdeverre.com).*