

Name:

Hour:

## ***Etched Mirror***

**Glass decoration** has been around for thousands of years. Some of the earliest forms of decorative glass dates back to 3000 B.C.! In comparison, glass etching is a relatively new fine art form. Glass etching was first discovered in 1771 in Sweden, and started becoming popular in other parts of Europe around 1850. Originally, etched art was only found in hotels and restaurants. Now it can be found everywhere.

**Etching** creates a frosted appearance on glass or mirrors. There are two types of glass etching, sand blasting and chemical etching. **Sand blasting** is the most common form of glass etching. A high-powered machine blasts an abrasive at the surface to cut away part of the surface of the glass. This process creates a **low-relief sculpture** because different dimensions, or depths, can be achieved.

Using an acid, or **chemical etch**, is a much less complicated process. A stencil is used to cover a glass or mirror. Areas where etching is desired are left uncovered. An etching acid is applied to the exposed areas, and the acid 'eats away' part of the surface of the glass.

### **STEPS TO CREATE AN ETCHED MIRROR**

For this project you will be creating a design using **positive and negative space**, like a **stencil**. This design will be transferred to a mirror and you will apply etching cream to create a frosted image on the mirror.

1. On a 12'x12' piece of paper, plan your design. Pay close attention to how you are using **positive** and **negative space**! Your design should be **balanced** using **symmetry** or **asymmetry**.
2. Color in the positive space of your design.
3. Apply contact paper to your mirror. Tape your paper design to the mirror and use transfer paper to transfer the outline of your design.
4. Use an X-acto knife to cut away the positive parts of your design on the contact paper.

5. Carefully apply the etching cream to your mirror. Make sure your hands and arms are covered!
  - ✓ You only need to apply the etching cream to the exposed area of the mirror.
  - ✓ Leave the etching cream on for at least 5 minutes.
6. Clean off the etching cream in the sink and dry the mirror. Lift up a small corner of the contact paper next to an etched area to see if the cream sufficiently etched the mirror.
  - ✓ If you need to reapply etching cream, repeat step 5. If not, go on to step 7.
7. Carefully peel off the contact paper and throw into the garbage. **DO NOT** leave pieces of the contact paper on the counter or in the sinks!
8. Clean your mirror with window cleaner and you're finished!