

GARAGE SALES

What is Uranium Glass?

There's a lot of collectible glassware out there. Uranium glass — also called Vaseline glass because of a characteristic light yellow color, though it can also be shades of green or other colors — is a type of glassware that was made during the early 20th century. It contains low levels of uranium.

GLOWING GLASS

Uranium glass will glow under a black light and can also register on a Geiger counter, though it's not usually dangerous. In the U.S., uranium glass was popular in the early 20th century, but wasn't produced during World War II because of a drop in uranium supplies due to the ongoing Manhattan Project.

Once the war was over, uranium glass production resumed. Makers such as Fenton and Mosser made uranium glass products even though uranium was still reg-



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ulated until the end of the Cold War.

Uranium glass isn't dangerous, experts say, and can still be displayed and used like other collectible glass items. It also doesn't glow because of the radioactivity; it glows an

eerie neon green because of the uranium added to the glass.

TESTING URANIUM GLASS

Uranium makes this kind of glass glow under a black

light, so the quickest and easiest way to test and make sure you have real uranium glass is to find a dark spot and flip on a black light. You can also, especially at flea markets or large sales, wait until twilight when it's a little

darker and the natural light contains more UV rays. Uranium glass pieces will slightly glow.

OTHER KINDS OF GLASS

Carnival glass is characterized by an iridescent surface shimmer that comes from a coating of metallic salts while the glass is still hot. It was first produced by Fenton in 1908 with pieces inspired by fine blown iridescent pieces from Tiffany's and Steuben. Most carnival glass was made prior to 1925. It came in an array of colors, shapes and patterns. Carnival glass was also made by other U.S. manufacturers, including Northwood, Imperial, Millersburg, Westmoreland, Cambridge and U.S. Glass.

Depression glass was made from 1929 to 1939 and is often clear or colored translucent, machine-made glass pieces. During the Great Depression, food manufacturers and other businesses would give out free pieces of what would become known as Depression glass. There are more than 100 patterns and a variety of colors, though pink, yellow, crystal and green are the most common. Though Depression glass was cheaply made, it's now highly collectible and is becoming harder to find. Reproductions have been made for years, so be on the lookout for fakes.

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SELLER'S TIP

Research Old Glassware

If you've got old glassware, it's important to know what kind you have before the sale. Important things to note are the maker, which is usually found on the imprint on the bottom of the piece. You'll also want to test it for uranium and make sure to include collectible glassware in your advertising to attract these buyers.

AD SPACE