

HOW TO USE MIRRORED GLASS IN A STAINED GLASS WINDOW



In Chicago, we have countless residential stained glass windows that feature double-sided gold mirrored glass. Because the gold is reflective on both sides, the windows are as beautiful from the street as they are from inside the house.

The glass is not actually mirrored on both sides. Two pieces of thin mirrored glass are placed back to back in a single lead came. The glass is clear and the mirror is real gold that has been deposited on the glass by a chemical deposition process called Angel Gilding. It is not gold leaf.

At angelgilding.com we show you how to mirror glass with gold yourself. We also have pre-mirrored gold glass available by special order. Our sheets are 1/16" (1/6 mm) thick. Two pieces, back-to-back fit into a single came.

STEPS

- 1) To cut the glass for a "glass sandwich" place the pattern on the reflective side of the glass and cut one piece with the pattern right side up.
- 2) Turn the pattern over, place it on the reflective side again and cut the second piece.
- 3) Cut carefully to avoid having to grind the glass to shape. The ground edge is more likely to admit water and flux that can ruin the mirror later. If you must grind the pieces, do it now and let the pieces dry completely.
- 4) Cover all the edges carefully with mirror edge sealant and let that dry before you begin leading up.
- 5) Remove any traces of sealant from the face of the glass only after the panel has been puttied. DO NOT wash the panel before you putty it. Water inside the mirror sandwich can ruin the mirror.
- 6) We recommend using La-Co paste flux, which is non-acidic and not water-based. It cleans off easily in the process of puttying your window.

ANGEL GILDING
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