Abrasive Spotlight - Glass Beads

Blast-O-Lite® glass beads, produced by Flex-O-Lite, are the ultimate in glass bead technology. Specially formulated of chemically inert soda-lime glass to produce a clean surface for parts and equipment, Blast-O-Lite® glass beads are spheres of uniform size and hardness that impact the surface of the part.

Blast-O-Lite® glass beads meet OSHA standards for finishing, deburring, peening and cleaning operations. They are environmentally and user-friendly. They release no free silica or toxins that may harm workers or the environment, and if the glass beads breakdown during use they fracture and do not contaminate work pieces.

Flex-O-Lite’s Blast-O-Lite® glass beads will not harm the environment, so when the spent glass needs to be disposed of it’s less expensive, and requires much less paperwork then disposing of chemical cleaners.

Common Applications:
- Part cleaning - gentle & won’t alter part dimensions
- Deflashing/deburring - remove burs without damaging parts
- Surface preparation - cleans and readies surface for painting, electrochemical processes, welding & metalizing
- Surface finishing - leaves an attractive, uniform, anti-glare finish
- Light to medium shot peening

Benefits Include:
- Produces a clean finish on a variety of metals
- No significant metal removal
- Leaves an attractive anti-glare finish
- Can be recycled many times - resists fracturing
- SAFE - NO FREE SILICA
- Environmentally friendly
- Chemically inert - won’t leave ferrous or other residues
- Blends machine marks / removes welding heat tint
- Made from “white glass only”
More photos of projects glass bead blasted for surface preparation, heat discoloration removal, cleaning, etc.

IDS Blast® is an authorized distributor of FLEX-O-LITE® Glass Beads
Call us today at **800-800-0665** to request a quote!
Available Sizes

Glass bead abrasive is available in 50 lb. bags & 2000 lb. bulk bags

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grit</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 / 40</td>
<td>coarse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 / 70</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 / 120</td>
<td>coarse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 / 170</td>
<td>fine</td>
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<tr>
<td>170 / 325</td>
<td>fine</td>
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</tbody>
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COARSE

FINE

How Is Glass Bead Abrasive Made?

1. The process begins when glass cullet (crushed glass) is fed pneumatically to an air cooled furnace.

2. The glass cullet is propelled upward through a vertical air cooled furnace where it melts, forms spheres and resolidifies.

3. When the newly formed glass beads exit the top of the furnace, it is separated by size. The sizes of the glass beads are proportional to the size of the glass cullet in step 1.

Beware Of Cheap Imported Glass Bead

BEWARE OF GLASS BEAD NOT MANUFACTURED IN NORTH AMERICA. Glass beads are made from recycled soda lime glass. Soda lime compositions manufactured around the world are different, and glass beads made from glass containing hazardous materials can contain those same hazardous materials.

Glass beads from some manufacturers outside of North America contain much higher levels of contaminants like arsenic and lead which are dangerous. Flex-o-lite® glass beads are made in North America and meet the revised MIL and AMS specifications for heavy metals content.
Flex-o-lite®, the manufacturer of Blast-o-lite®, is an affiliate of Potters Industries, LLC which has a long and rich history in the glass bead manufacturing history. Potters Industries LLC is a leading producer of engineered glass materials serving the highway safety, polymer additive, metal finishing, and conductive particle markets.

Potters produces most of its glass beads by utilizing recycled glass as a starting material.

A major portion of the company’s glass bead production is used for highway safety markings, providing the light-reflective lane markings found on highways around the world. Through its research and technology advancements, Potters has developed a product line that includes impact beads for cleaning and strengthening metals, reinforcing additives for plastics, media for grinding and dispersing, metal-coated particles to provide electromagnetic shielding interference of electronic parts, and beads for friction reduction in oil drilling. Potters also produces borosilicate glass hollow microspheres used as weight reducing fillers in fabricated plastics, automotive body putties, and as extenders in adhesives and coating formulations. Potters hollow spheres are also used as sensitizers in industrial explosives.

Potters Industries, LLC History Time-Line:

1904 - Rudolf arrives in New York aboard ship Zeeland with 3 brothers.
1914 - Rudolf and Paul were experimenting and first bead was born.
1922 - Plans filed for 5 1-story metal roof garages, 10x18 at 4816 Broadway.
1936 - Acquisition of original premises at 150-25 Centerville Street.
1937 - 3 alarm fire ruins interior of Potters Bros. factory.
1941 - Rudolf's files first patent.
1943 - Legal Notice lists, the partnership of Rudolf Potters, Paul Potters, Jessie Potters, Florence Potters and Robert Potters as Potters Bros.
1946 - Potters Bros. becomes incorporated—Potters Bros. Inc.
1948 - Rudolf files second patent.
1952 - Potters moves its operations from Ozone Park to Carlstadt, NJ.
1956 - Potters Brothers' build second plant in Anaheim, CA.
1957 - Joint venture with Wood Brothers in the United Kingdom and establishes factory in Barnsley, Yorkshire.
1961 - Acquires Reflex Glass Bead Company, Inc. which establishes the Brownwood, TX operation.
1966 - Joint venture with Toshiba Electric in Japan.
1966 - State of art bead plant designed that forms basis for plants to be built in Cleveland and Tokyo.
1966 - Joint venture with Wood Brothers expands to include Glaverbel with a plant in Belgium.
1967 - Construction completed at Cleveland, OH and Tokyo, Japan plants.
1967 - Joint venture with Wood Brothers (U. K.) and Glaverbel (Belgium) expands by building a new plant in West Germany.
1968 - Builds Apex, NC plant.
1968 - Forms joint venture in Mexico with Mexican partners and build factory.
1970 - Changes name from Potters Brothers to Potters Industries Inc.
1971 - Canada Ballotini Inc. (Canadian subsidiary) purchases a manufacturing plant in Montreal and moves operations to Montreal from St. Romuald.
1971 - Obtains 100% ownership of U. K. and West Germany operations and the Belgium operation is spun-off to Glaverbel.
1971 - Builds Second Japanese factory built at Shoso City.
1972 - Forms Potters Industrial Limitada in Brazil and constructs a plant.
1973 - Enters into a joint venture with Tutt Bryant Ltd. in Australia.
1947 - Completes construction on Potsdam, NY plant.
1975 - Builds Japanese factory Tsukuba City/Kanto.
1979 - Builds Canby, Oregon plant.
1979 - Purchases Northern Cullet, Ltd. through U. K. subsidiary (PBL).
1979 - Constructs plant in St. Poursain, France.
1983 - Potters' conducts the first extensive independent research still referenced by Federal Highways that linked edge lines to reduced traffic crashes, deaths and injuries.
1984 - Potters' develops the Mirolux® 12 retroreflectometer.
1984 - Acquires Canasphere Ltd., a Canadian operation in Moose Jaw.
1985 - Potters develops the First "Mobile" Reflectometer--Laserlux®
1985 - Builds large bead facility in West Auckland, United Kingdom
1987 - Visibead® Safety Marking Spheres are introduced providing improved safety and visibility for both wet and dry night driving conditions.
1989 - Constructs Kingman, AZ plant.
1991 - Forms joint venture with a prominent Thai National, Mr. Sompong Dowipiset, and constructs a plant near Bangkok, Thailand.
1993 - Potters sponsors "Benefit/Cost Analysis of Lane Markings"—This report is still referenced by FHWA today.
1994 - Potters develops Visigun® All Weather Pavement Marking bead applicator
2001 - Potters acquires a controlling interest in Interminglass Sp. Z.o.o., Poland.
2005 - Potters files U.S. patent for Speedbeader®
2007 - PQ/Potters acquires Flex-O-Lite Inc.
2007 - Potters and Epoplex develop Visimax®.
2008 - Potters acquires Société de Recyclage de Produits Verriers Industriels ("SRPV")
2010 - Potters Industries and Dow Chemicals develop Visirol® Intermix Glass Bead System
2013 - Potters is granted a United States patent for Visirol®