



Sheridan

Blown Away viewer's guide: The (in)complete lexicon of glass blowing

Sheridan is a proud collaborator on *Blown Away* – a new, made-in-Canada competition series streaming globally on Netflix. Filmed in North America's largest hot shop - located in Hamilton and built with the assistance of Sheridan – the series brings glass blowing to audiences worldwide.

Get the most out of your viewing experience with this glossary from our creatives who served as behind-the-scenes consultants on the show. With a 50-year track record of teaching this ancient and intricate artform, [Sheridan's Glass Program](#) is here to teach you to distinguish a marver from a puffer so you can boost your glass-speak and follow along like a master.

Annealer. A kiln used to slowly cool finished blown glass objects from 500C to room temperature to help avoid cracking.

Bit. A small amount of molten glass used to adhere two or more glass objects together. Can also be used as a decorative element during production.

Blowpipe. A hollow steel rod, with a mouthpiece on one end. Used by the artist to blow air into the molten glass attached at the opposite end to create a bubble in the piece being formed.

Cane. A rod of glass made by pulling and stretching molten glass from both ends. Features a uniform colour pattern and design.

Cold working. Post production work once the annealing process has finished and the glass has cooled. May consist of grinding, sandblasting, drilling or polishing to create a desired effect.

Colour bar. A rod of glass in a solid colour. Colour Bar is the most common method for adding colour to a blown glass object in production. Colour can also be in frit (small chunks) and powder form.

Cracking off. The process of detaching the glass object from the blowpipe.

Day tank or Melting furnace. A furnace used to melt glass overnight for glass production the following day.

Flashing. Reheating a glass piece for short bursts of time in the glory hole once all hot work has been completed to even the temperature of the piece before knocking off.

Gaffer. The primary glass blower in control of the bench and the object being made. Not necessarily the artist or the designer.

Garage. An oven used to temporarily store blown glass pieces so they maintain an even temperature until they're assembled into a larger object.

Gather. Collecting molten glass on the end of a blowpipe or punty. Done with a swirling action.

Glass blower's bench. Primary workspace for a gaffer where objects are created and tools are kept. Complete with rails for rolling glass pipes.

Glassblowing team. The gaffer and their skilled assistants. A must for creating larger, complex objects.

Glory hole. A reheating furnace used to reheat a glass object and keep it workable for further reshaping. Features an open front for easy access. Not for storage. Heats to 1100C.

Hot sculpting. Heating and manipulating a glass object with tools to accomplish a desired effect. May involve hot torches for spot work.

Incalmo. Fusing two or more hot blown glass pieces into a larger form.

Jacks. A glass blowing tool used to create a crease in the blown glass object while it's soft, creating a crack off point. Can also be used to shape various areas of blown glass vessels. Resembles giant tweezers.

Knock off table. A table where finished blown objects are removed from the blowpipe or punty before being placed in the annealer to gradually cool down.

Marver. A solid steel-surfaced table used to flatten, form or cool a section of a blown object while hot and soft.

Moil. The piece of glass that attaches a glass work to the blowpipe during production.

Newspaper. A forming tool that allows a glass blower to handle pieces at 2000C. Layered to be half an inch thick. Must be wet. Wooden blocks with handles are a substitute.

Optic mold. A method for creating texture on a glass object while hot.

Pincers. A glass blowing tool used to pinch or hold hot glass, to manipulate the material while hot and soft. Also resembles a large steel set of tweezers.

Punty. A process by which a bubble is transferred from a pipe to metal rod, allowing the gaffer to continue working on the opening of a blown glass or solid object.

Puffer. A device that allows an artist to blow into the opening of a glass blown object while still hot to further inflate and shape it.

Shears. Tools used to trim off excess glass or to cut into a blown glass object, in order to manipulate the material while hot. Resembles a large set of steel scissors. Features blades that can be straight, diamond-shaped or duck-billed to avoid cut-offs from re-attaching.

Tagliols. Rectangular or wedge-shaped metal paddles for sculpting, scoring and flattening hot glass.

Wax. Coating applied to jacks to prevent the glass object being shaped from sticking to the tool. Most commonly used material is beeswax.