

Depression Glass for the Microwave????

I bet you did not know that there is at least one Depression glass pattern that can be used in today's microwave ovens! The Hocking Glass Company's Bubble pattern was originally engineered to go right from the oven to the dinner table. The glass formula they used must have been pretty tough to survive the extremes in temperature found in ovens. Now flash forward to today's microwave ovens and the power they produce. Who would have thought that any piece of Depression glass could withstand the heat generated by the microwave process? I was shocked to see my mother pop a blue Bubble plate into the microwave and it survived in one piece and she kept doing it over and over. That was over 10 years ago and she is still using those plates in the microwave.

Bubble was produced from the 1930's to the 1960's. Complete sets can be collected in blue, crystal, forest green and royal ruby. A small set can be collected in milk glass. The pattern was also made in limited amounts in: pink, light green, amber, yellow, jadeite, opalescent, black, iridescent, dark blue and some fired on colors. All of these limited colors are considered rare. The 8 3/8" bowl was made in most of these limited colors and is not considered to be rare. All other items in these colors are rare. I would not use items made in these limited colors in the microwave as I do not know how they will hold up.

There are approximately 27 items made in the line. Most blue and crystal pieces are very inexpensive and can be used every day if you want. Forest green and royal ruby are often used around the Holidays and you can put together a nice set in either color or maybe mix the two. Make sure to check dinner plates for scratches before buying them. Water pitchers were made in crystal and royal ruby. Candlesticks were made in crystal, forest green and black (rare). Other items available in the pattern are: several different sizes of bowl, plates, platters, tumblers, creamer and sugar. The

rarest piece in Bubble is the 9" blue flanged bowl and it has a very high price tag on it unless you're lucky enough to find one cheap somewhere. There are even some go along bubble type stems that can be used with the line.

Barbara and Jim Mauzy have some wonderful suggestions on how to use Bubble in their book Mauzy's Depression Glass, 6th edition. They advocate using Bubble with other glass patterns.

To gain an appreciation for the beauty, variety and quality of American glass manufacturing, consider attending one of the shows that promotes these items. The next glass and pottery show featuring Depression glass and others mentioned in this article will be sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Depression Glass Society (RMDGS) which will be holding their 36th glass and pottery show on April 24th (10-5) and 25th (11-4), 2010 . At the show you will find 34 dealers featuring vintage glass, pottery and decorative items from the 1800's to the 1970's. The show will be held at the Douglas County Events Center. 500 Fairgrounds Road (Exit 181 – I25) in Castle Rock. Please visit the RMDGS website to learn more about their club and show: (www.rmdgs.com) & ([show](#)). The show will have 14-15 special displays by members, hourly door prizes for adults and a special \$25 door prize just for children every 2 hours during the show. Please check the club's website for more information about this exciting event. The Events Center and vendor booths are easily accessible for the disabled community. Please feel free to submit questions about this article or about the show etc. on the club's website. A club member will get back to you with an answer.

Please visit the Pikes Peak Depression Glass Club (PPDGC) website to learn more about their club and their Sept. 2010 fall show. (www.PPDGC.com)

