

PFG's float glass manufacturing process

1 Raw material feed:
Silica sand, soda ash, dolomite, limestone, sodium sulphate and cullet are mixed together to form the raw material batch.

2 Furnace:
The batch is fed into the furnace and melted at a temperature of around 1 500°C.

3 Float bath:
A continuous ribbon of molten glass floats along the surface of molten tin. All irregularities are melted out of the ribbon, to give the glass a flat, parallel surface.



4 Annealing lehr:
The glass is annealed and gradually cooled to around 200°C, to relieve stresses in the glass and prevent splitting and breaking in the cutting phase.

5 On-line cutting:
The ribbon moves to the 'cold end' of the line where it is washed and automatically cut, as it travels along the rollers.

6 Stacking and offloading:
Automatic stackers offload the glass sheets. The glass is then warehoused for distribution.

7 Distribution:
The glass is distributed throughout South Africa and exported into regional and overseas markets. PFG's distribution hubs are in Springs, Durban and Cape Town.

**Float
process**