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The numbers on the bottom of glass bottles typically represent several important pieces of information, including the manufacturer’s mark, mold number, production date, and sometimes the location of production.These codes help in quality control, identification of the production source, and recycling processes.The numbers found on the bottom of glass bottles serve a multipurpose function:Manufacturer’s Mark: This is usually a logo or a set of initials that indicates the company that produced the bottle.Mold Number: Indicates which mold was used to create the bottle, useful for identifying production issues.Date Code: Often signifies when the bottle was made, which can be important for quality control and product recalls.Plant Code: If present, it shows which plant the item was manufactured in, which can be useful for tracing the product’s origin.For example, a bottle may have the following set of numbers and symbols: ‘M123 4567 89.’ In this case, ‘M123’ could be the manufacturer’s mark, ‘4567’ the mold number, and ‘89’ the last two digits of the production year.Deciphering bottle codes reveals a bottle’s origin and lifecycle, ensuring consumer safety and efficient recycling.The numbers on the bottom of glass bottles serve various purposes, including indicating the manufacturer, production issues, date of manufacture, and manufacturing plant.Decoding these numbers is crucial for quality control, identification, and efficient recycling processes.Online databases, contacting manufacturers, or using scanning apps can help decipher bottle codes.Understanding bottle date codes is important for determining shelf life and consuming products at their best quality.To understand the bottle code, you should look for a series of numbers and letters stamped on the bottom of the glass bottle.These codes often contain vital information about the bottle’s production, including the manufacturing plant, production line, and the date of manufacture.But here’s where it gets interesting: innovative technology now allows for more intricate and detailed codes.Instead of just the date of manufacture, some codes now include information about the specific batch and even the materials used.This level of detail not only ensures quality control but also allows for better traceability and product recall if necessary.So, you want to know how to decipher the date codes on glass bottles?Well, understanding bottle expiration dates and decoding the numbers on the bottom of the bottle can give you valuable information about the product’s shelf life and production date.Let’s break down the process of deciphering bottle date codes to ensure you’re getting the freshest products.You may frequently encounter codes on the bottom of glass bottles, which indicate the expiration date of the product.Understanding these bottle expiration dates can be crucial in ensuring that you consume the product at its best quality.Many companies use date codes that are not easily recognizable to the average consumer. However, with the drive for innovation, some brands have started implementing more transparent and consumer-friendly date coding systems.Take a look at the table below to see examples of innovative bottle date codes:BrandExpiration Date CodeHow to DecipherBrand A12MAR2312th March 2023Brand B202312152023, December 15Brand CA023FJan 23, 2024Understanding Bottle Expiration DatesThese examples illustrate how some companies are revolutionizing the way expiration dates are displayed, making it easier for consumers to understand and use the information provided.How can you decipher the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles to determine the expiration date?It’s all about understanding the bottle date codes, and here’s how you can do it:Look for a series of numbers or letters on the bottle’s base.Identify the specific code or symbol that indicates the expiration date.Use online databases or contact the manufacturer for decoding assistance.Consider innovative apps or tools that can scan and interpret the codes for you.Deciphering bottle date codes doesn’t have to be a mystery. With the right approach and maybe a touch of technology, you can easily unlock the expiration date of your glass bottles for a seamless and informed consumer experience.The manufacturer identification number on the bottom of glass bottles can provide valuable insight into the origin and production details of the bottle.This unique number, often overlooked, holds the key to discovering the manufacturer’s identity, location, and even the production date.By understanding the manufacturer identification number, you can gain a deeper understanding of the bottle’s journey from production to your hands.This knowledge opens up a world of possibilities for tracking the bottle’s history, ensuring quality, and even uncovering potential innovations or unique production methods used by the manufacturer.Keep an eye out for this number, as it holds the potential to reveal exciting information about the bottle and the manufacturer behind it.Embrace the opportunity to decode and unveil the secrets hidden within this seemingly ordinary number.Exploring the glass mold identification reveals the intricate details of the bottle’s production process and provides insights into its manufacturing history.Understanding the unique mold identification marks on glass bottles can unlock a wealth of information about their origins and production methods.Here’s what you need to know:Mold Numbers: These indicate the specific mold used in the production of the bottle.Date Codes: Some molds feature date codes, offering a glimpse into the bottle’s manufacturing date.Production Variations: Variances in mold marks can signify changes in the manufacturing process or design alterations.Historical Context: Exploring glass mold identification can provide fascinating historical context, shedding light on the evolution of bottle production techniques.So, you’re curious about the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles and what they mean.Well, one key aspect to understand is how to decode the production location code. This involves deciphering the bottle origin codes and understanding the manufacturing location markings.Have you ever wondered where the glass bottle in your hand was manufactured and filled? Deciphering bottle origin codes can reveal the production location, providing insight into the bottle’s journey to your hands.Here are four ways to crack the production location code:Utilize online databases and resources to decode the numbers and letters on the bottle.Look for specific patterns or formats in the codes that may indicate the origin of the bottle.Reach out to the bottle manufacturer or industry experts for assistance in interpreting the origin code.Consider innovative technologies like optical character recognition (OCR) and artificial intelligence (AI) to automate the deciphering process.To further understand the origin codes on glass bottles, you can delve into the specific manufacturing location markings, which provide valuable insight into where the bottle was produced and filled.These markings typically consist of a code that represents the manufacturing location. By cracking the production location code, you can uncover where the bottle was made, offering transparency and traceability in the manufacturing process.Below is a table illustrating examples of manufacturing location markings:Location CodeManufacturing Location01New York14California27TexasUnderstanding Manufacturing Location MarkingsUnderstanding these manufacturing location markings allows for a deeper understanding of the bottle’s journey from production to consumption, aligning with the desire for innovation and transparency in manufacturing processes.The bottle’s capacity indicator on the bottom is a key piece of information for consumers to understand the volume of the container. When you see those numbers, it’s not just random coding; it’s a window into the bottle’s capacity.Here’s why it matters:Accurate Volume Measurement: The numbers indicate the volume of the bottle, ensuring you know exactly how much liquid it can hold.Eco-Friendly Choices: Understanding the bottle’s capacity helps you make eco-conscious decisions by avoiding over-purchasing or wastage.Innovation in Packaging: Manufacturers are using advanced coding to provide clearer and more informative capacity indicators.Informed Purchasing: Knowing the bottle’s capacity empowers you to make informed decisions based on your specific needs, reducing guesswork and enhancing convenience.So next time you pick up a glass bottle, take a closer look at those numbers on the bottom. They mightn’t just be random markings, but instead hold valuable information about the bottle’s production date, manufacturer, and even the location it was made.It’s like a secret code waiting to be decoded, adding a fun and mysterious element to something as simple as a glass bottle.Who knew there was so much hidden in those tiny numbers? (Many of the links in this article redirect to a specific reviewed product. Your purchase of these products through affiliate links helps to generate commission for Storables.com, at no extra cost. Learn more) Glass bottles are a ubiquitous part of our daily lives, used for containing a wide array of products such as beverages, condiments, and cosmetics. Have you ever noticed the tiny numbers imprinted on the bottom of these bottles? They may seem inconspicuous at first glance, but they actually hold significant meaning and play a crucial role in various aspects of the manufacturing and recycling processes. Understanding the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles can provide valuable insights into the composition, origin, and potential reuse of the container. These seemingly random digits are not just a product of chance; rather, they are a deliberate and standardized method of conveying essential information about the bottle's characteristics. In this article, we will delve into the fascinating world of these numbers, unraveling their significance and shedding light on their implications for both consumers and industry professionals. By gaining a deeper understanding of the numbers etched onto glass bottles, you will be equipped with valuable knowledge that can enhance your appreciation for these everyday objects and contribute to sustainable practices. The numbers on the bottom of glass bottles are like secret codes that reveal the bottle’s history and characteristics, helping manufacturers track quality and consumers understand the bottle’s journey. These numbers play a crucial role in recycling and sustainability, ensuring that glass bottles are properly handled and repurposed, contributing to environmental conservation. The numbers imprinted on the bottom of glass bottles are not mere decorative elements; rather, they serve as a coded language that conveys vital information about the bottle's composition and manufacturing process. This alphanumeric code, often accompanied by symbols, holds the key to unraveling the bottle's origins and characteristics. The most common set of numbers found on glass bottles is known as the "resin identification code." This code, typically indicated by a number inside a triangle of arrows, signifies the type of plastic resin used in the bottle's production. However, when it comes to glass bottles, the numbers etched on the bottom serve a different purpose. These numbers are typically embossed or molded into the glass during the manufacturing process. They may appear as a single digit or a combination of several digits, often accompanied by additional symbols or letters. While the specific format may vary, the primary function of these numbers is to provide essential details about the bottle's mold and manufacturing run. The numbers on the bottom of glass bottles are not random; they are meticulously assigned to each mold used in the production process. Each mold is marked with a unique identification number, allowing manufacturers to track and trace the bottles back to their respective molds. This system enables quality control and facilitates the identification of any defects or issues that may arise during production. Furthermore, these numbers play a crucial role in the recycling and reusability of glass bottles. By providing a means of identifying the bottle's origin and manufacturing specifications, the numbers aid in sorting and processing bottles for recycling. This process ensures that glass bottles are appropriately handled and recycled, contributing to sustainable practices and environmental conservation. In essence, the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles serve as a silent yet essential language, communicating valuable insights about the bottle's journey from production to potential reuse. By deciphering these numbers, consumers and industry professionals alike can gain a deeper appreciation for the meticulous craftsmanship and thoughtful design behind every glass bottle. The numbers etched on the bottom of glass bottles hold a wealth of information that can unveil the bottle's unique characteristics and manufacturing details. While they may appear as cryptic symbols at first glance, these numbers are a window into the bottle's history and composition, offering valuable insights to those who can decipher their significance. First and foremost, the numbers on glass bottles indicate the mold identification. Each set of numbers corresponds to a specific mold used in the bottle's production process. This serves as a form of internal tracking and quality control for manufacturers, allowing them to trace the origin of each bottle and monitor the performance of individual molds. By assigning distinct numbers to each mold, manufacturers can swiftly identify and address any issues that may arise during production, ensuring consistent quality across all bottles. In addition to mold identification, these numbers often convey the manufacturing run or batch. This means that the numbers can reveal when and where the bottle was produced, providing a glimpse into its journey from the manufacturing facility to the consumer's hands. Understanding the manufacturing run can offer valuable insights into the bottle's age, production location, and potential variations in quality based on different production runs. Furthermore, the numbers on glass bottles can also indicate specific manufacturing specifications and standards. For instance, certain digits or symbols may denote the type of glass used, the production line, or adherence to specific industry regulations. This level of detail allows industry professionals to assess the bottle's compliance with quality standards and ensures that it meets the necessary criteria for its intended purpose. Moreover, these numbers play a crucial role in the recycling and sustainability efforts associated with glass bottles. By providing clear identification of the bottle's manufacturing details, the numbers facilitate the sorting and processing of glass bottles for recycling. This streamlined approach to recycling ensures that glass bottles are appropriately handled and can be effectively repurposed, contributing to environmental conservation and sustainable practices. In essence, the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles serve as a comprehensive dossier, encapsulating the bottle's origin, production details, and potential for reuse. By decoding these numbers, consumers and industry professionals can gain a deeper understanding of the meticulous craftsmanship and intricate journey behind every glass bottle, fostering a greater appreciation for these everyday objects. The numbers on the bottom of glass bottles typically indicate the type of glass used and the specific mold or machine used to make the bottle. This information can be useful for identifying the manufacturer and understanding the bottle’s production process. The numbers imprinted on the bottom of glass bottles hold immense significance, playing a pivotal role in various aspects of the bottle's lifecycle and industry practices. These seemingly innocuous digits are far from arbitrary; they carry substantial importance that resonates throughout the manufacturing, quality control, and recycling processes. First and foremost, the numbers on glass bottles are crucial for quality control and traceability. By serving as unique identifiers for the molds used in the production process, these numbers enable manufacturers to track the origin of each bottle and monitor the performance of individual molds. This meticulous tracking system empowers manufacturers to swiftly identify and address any issues that may arise during production, ensuring consistent quality across all bottles. Without these numbers, the ability to pinpoint and rectify potential defects or inconsistencies in the manufacturing process would be significantly compromised. Moreover, the numbers on glass bottles provide valuable insights into the bottle's manufacturing run or batch. This information offers transparency regarding when and where the bottle was produced, shedding light on its age, production location, and potential variations in quality based on different production runs. Understanding the manufacturing run is essential for assessing the bottle's history and ensuring that it meets the necessary standards for safety and quality. In addition, these numbers play a vital role in facilitating the recycling and reusability of glass bottles. By providing clear identification of the bottle's manufacturing details, the numbers streamline the sorting and processing of glass bottles for recycling. This not only ensures that glass bottles are appropriately handled but also contributes to sustainable practices and environmental conservation. The ability to accurately identify and categorize glass bottles based on their manufacturing specifications is instrumental in maximizing the efficiency of recycling processes, ultimately reducing waste and minimizing the environmental impact of discarded bottles. Furthermore, the numbers on glass bottles serve as a testament to the meticulous craftsmanship and thoughtful design behind each bottle. They encapsulate the bottle's journey from production to potential reuse, offering a glimpse into the intricate details and standards upheld throughout the manufacturing process. By decoding these numbers, consumers and industry professionals can gain a deeper appreciation for the dedication and precision embedded in every glass bottle, fostering a greater understanding of their value beyond mere containers. In essence, the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles are not just arbitrary markings; they are indispensable markers that uphold the integrity, traceability, and sustainability of glass bottle production and recycling. Their importance reverberates throughout the entire lifecycle of glass bottles, underscoring their role as essential components of responsible manufacturing and environmental stewardship. In conclusion, the seemingly inconspicuous numbers etched on the bottom of glass bottles carry profound significance, serving as silent yet essential markers that shape the bottle's journey from production to potential reuse. These numbers, meticulously assigned during the manufacturing process, provide a window into the bottle's origin, composition, and potential for recycling. By decoding these numbers, consumers and industry professionals can gain valuable insights into the bottle's history and contribute to sustainable practices. The numbers on glass bottles play a multifaceted role, encompassing aspects of quality control, traceability, and environmental stewardship. They serve as unique identifiers for the molds used in the production process, enabling manufacturers to monitor the performance of individual molds and maintain consistent quality across all bottles. This meticulous tracking system empowers manufacturers to swiftly identify and address any issues that may arise during production, ensuring that each bottle meets the necessary standards for safety and quality. Furthermore, these numbers offer transparency regarding the bottle's manufacturing run or batch, providing valuable insights into its age, production location, and variations in quality based on different production runs. Understanding the manufacturing run is essential for assessing the bottle's history and ensuring its compliance with industry regulations and standards. Moreover, the numbers on glass bottles play a pivotal role in facilitating the recycling and reusability of these containers. By providing clear identification of the bottle's manufacturing details, the numbers streamline the sorting and processing of glass bottles for recycling, contributing to sustainable practices and environmental conservation. This streamlined approach to recycling ensures that glass bottles are appropriately handled and can be effectively repurposed, ultimately reducing waste and minimizing the environmental impact of discarded bottles. Ultimately, the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles encapsulate the meticulous craftsmanship and thoughtful design behind each bottle, offering a glimpse into the intricate details and standards upheld throughout the manufacturing process. By unraveling the significance of these numbers, individuals can gain a deeper appreciation for the dedication and precision embedded in every glass bottle, fostering a greater understanding of their value beyond mere containers. In essence, the numbers on the bottom of glass bottles are not just arbitrary markings; they are indispensable markers that uphold the integrity, traceability, and sustainability of glass bottle production and recycling. Their importance reverberates throughout the entire lifecycle of glass bottles, underscoring their role as essential components of responsible manufacturing and environmental stewardship. QWhy do interior design trends change every year? A Interior design trends change every year because people’s tastes and preferences evolve over time. What was popular and stylish last year may not be as appealing this year, so designers and homeowners are always looking for fresh ideas and new ways to decorate their spaces. QHow can I stay updated on the latest interior design trends? A You can stay updated on the latest interior design trends by following interior design blogs, magazines, and social media accounts. Attending home decor and design shows can also give you a firsthand look at the newest trends and innovations in the industry. QWhat are some popular interior design trends right now? A Some popular interior design trends right now include minimalist and sustainable design, biophilic design that incorporates natural elements, and the use of bold colors and patterns. Mixing vintage and modern elements is also a popular trend at the moment. QIs it necessary to follow interior design trends? A It’s not necessary to follow interior design trends, but they can provide inspiration and ideas for refreshing your living space. You can always incorporate elements of current trends into your own personal style to create a unique and stylish home that reflects your personality. QHow can I incorporate interior design trends into my home without breaking the bank? A You can incorporate interior design trends into your home without breaking the bank by making small changes such as adding new throw pillows, changing out artwork, or updating your lighting fixtures. You can also shop for affordable decor items at thrift stores, flea markets, and online marketplaces. At Storables.com, we guarantee accurate and reliable information. Our content, validated by Expert Board Contributors, is crafted following stringent Editorial Policies. We're committed to providing you with well-researched, expert-backed insights for all your informational needs. Collecting glass bottles is one of the most popular hobbies around the world – and for good reason. Every bottle collected brings with it a treasure trove of history. From different labels and branding to government warnings, to the different techniques American glassmakers used, and much more. Not only that, but many still contain historic goods like whiskeys, medicines and more – adding to their value. And with so many antique bottles out there, collectors are actively hunting for rare finds across the Internet. Today we’re going to explore how you go about identifying your bottles. Step by step, we’ll guide you through all the features and markings that make a simple glass bottle truly sparkle. Glass identification: How do you read glass bottle markings? You can tell a lot about the history of a glass bottle by looking at its bottom. Simply pick up your glass bottle and carefully examine it. There are five key areas of a bottle you should concentrate on. Run your fingers along the side and base to feel for any slight ridges, grooves, embossing or abrasions. Try to identify what the markings look like – if they’re too faint you can try an age-old method of making a print. Place a white sheet of paper over the bottle, and lightly rub a crayon across. The design or lettering should become clearer on the page. If you still can’t make out any designs or marks, don’t try to clean your bottle either – bottles are worth more if the original residues are still inside. Instead, let’s take a quick look at what markings (and no markings!) might mean to the value of your bottom. How do I identify old bottle markings? Despite there being so much variety in glassware, including colors, shapes, sizes, styles and more – there are some common ways we can identify and define glass bottles. 1. Maker’s marks Every bottle, from whiskey flasks to fruit jars, soda bottles and medicine has some form of maker’s mark. These are brands, logos, trademarks, symbols, as well as letters, numbers, and date codes usually found on the sides and bottom of bottles. Maker marks are one of the most useful ways of dating bottles because logos and trademarks are often easy to trace, even if they change over time. Also Read Antique Drawer Pulls Value (Idetification & Price Guides)Image Credit: pinterest For example, Ball jar logos used stacked letters for their branding between 1885-1886. After 1886, they changed to blocked, capitalised lettering. Companies regularly changed their branding, making it easy to date specific bottles. Some types of bottles have unique markers that set them apart. For example, beer bottles have D-numbers on the base, which identifies specific distillers. Liquor bottles may also have specific laws or legalisation embossed on them, another way of dating bottles. An example is a tagline ‘Federal Law Forbids Sale or Reuse of this Bottle’, which was put on bottles between 1935-1963 when prohibition was repealed. The problem with some maker marks is that they are unrecognisable. But don’t worry – there is an abundance of online resources which are tailor-made to help you identify brands. These include: 2. Production markings – Pontil scars Image Credit: sha Pontil scars are a sign the bottle was free-blown during production. Glassblowers would hold the glass on an iron ‘punty rod’ during production. The bottle would be ‘snapped’ off, creating the pontil mark. Pontil marks often indicate a bottle is older, because it predates machine-led production. It’s one of the oldest techniques in glassmaking. 3. Snap-case & sabot But what if there’s no pontil mark? That doesn’t necessarily mean it’s machine-made. There was another production technique commonly used, known as the snap-case method. This dates between the 1850s and 1860s. Using special apparatus, the glassmaker held the bottle securely during production, allowing for more sophisticated finishes to be applied. 4. Knurling/Stippling? Indentations at the bottom of your bottle indicate a technique known as knurling or stippling. It was commonly used for wine bottles and soda bottles like Coca-Cola, and it helped reinforce the glass and prevent any cracking from taking place. Stippling is also a useful dating method. The technique was invented in 1940 by the Owens Company. 5. Machine made? If you can’t spot any markers on the base of your bottle – don’t worry. This in itself is a helpful piece of information. Also Read Antique School Desk Value (Identification & Price Guides)During the 1920s and 1930s, producing bottles by hand was in a steep decline, as machines took over and began mass-producing glass. Markers and seams moved up towards the tip of the bottle or disappeared altogether. Some machine production left ‘suction marks’ on the bottom of bottles, which were ridges and groves that travelled around the entire base. 6. Mold lines By the early 20th century, more and more bottle makers were using molds. Molds often left narrow lines or small circles on the bottom of bottles. Quite often bottles had mold numbers printed on them, too. This was a quality control measure, where glass makers could spot if a mold was losing shape and needed replacing. Whilst there are many different molds used throughout the glassmaking industry, here are the most common ones you can keep an eye out for: If the bottle has one clearly defined mold line down the middle, it was most likely produced using the Keyed & hinge mold method. This is one of the oldest techniques in the industry and dates back to the 1st century. Bottles made this way had very defined arching, and were structurally very strong and durable. It was popular for making bottles containing medicine, bitters and alcohol like whiskey and beer. Popular during the late 19th century, post-bottom molds had a plate mechanism that marked bottle bases in a signature way, as shown in this diagram. This particular mold technique led to some truly revolutionary techniques in terms of design and decoration. These left no noticeable seams on the body or base of a bottle. Often used for whiskey flasks and wine bottles were incredibly popular in production for the first half of the 19th century. Cup-bottom molds are easy to identify, thanks to their shallow depression, thick base, and thick, striking seams along the bottle’s sides. These bottles are easy to date, too, as the technique was popular between the 1850s and 1910s. Is your glass bottle valuable? Or a reproduction? As time moves on, glass bottles get more and more valuable. Many companies are tapping into the growing interest in vintage bottles. More of them are now reproducing classic looks as part of their marketing. Also Read How To Store Silver Without Tarnishing or Scratching?And as glass bottles are reusable, there are more of them in circulation than ever before. Take Coco-Cola for example, which still relies heavily on its vintage aesthetic when selling soda bottles. As the Auction Professor explains below, some of these antique bottles can easily fetch up to $5,000 at auction and are constantly increasing in value. But! You must be careful not to confuse them with convincing modern replicas! As bottle collectors, how can we tell if our prized antique bottles are authentically old? Or, modern reproductions of classic looks? Here is a quick guide on how to spot authentic markings on your bottle: 1. Seams Older glassmaking techniques created seams. If your glass bottle has distinctive seams at the bottom, this is a good indication of its authenticity. However, if the seams are closer to the lip of the bottle, or non-existent, this points to machine-made bottles which could mean a modern reproduction. 2. Poor quality? One thing you will notice about early glassmakers is that they were perfectionists, and would create consistently high-quality glass with no imperfections. Reproductions, on the other hand, often try to ‘recreate’ traditional methods and often have sloppy bumps and bubbles in the glassware. 3. Logos don’t match Glass companies often changed their branding. Sometimes it was a new logo or a slight change in font to their lettering. If you have a glass bottle with a clear manufacturer, check historical records to see if the branding, style and lettering all match up. 4. Colors Old, antique glass bottles had a limited palette of colors to draw from. We’re talking blue, amber, brown, and clear glass. Be wary of any glassware that has uncommon colors and tones like red, green and yellow. Collecting antique bottles is a fun and interesting hobby, but anyone who has picked up one of these old bottles knows how easy it is to get confused when trying to decipher the markings on the glass. The things is, these markings are the key to telling a fake from a find and to determining the age and value of your bottle. Don't worry, though. Once you know what to look for, you'll be able to spot a great bottle during your next visit to the flea market or antique shop. To find the markings, examine the bottle carefully. The side of the bottle may be printed with the product or manufacturer's name, and this can help identify your find. Also turn the bottle over. Many bottles have marks on the bottom, and these are important signatures of bottle manufacturers. If the mark isn't obvious on the bottom of the bottle, feel for it with your finger. Quick Tip If you're unable to read a mark by looking at it, try placing a piece of white paper on the bottle and lightly rubbing over the mark with a piece of charcoal or a crayon. After you've found the mark on the bottle, classify it by type. Bottles made in the U.S.A. have markings that fall into a few categories: Embossed marks - Embossed labels or product names often appear on the sides of bottles. These can include words like "cough syrup" or a manufacturer's name. Maker's marks - Maker's marks often appear on the bottom of the bottle. These take the form of numbers, letters, symbols, or names. Pontil marks - Pontil marks are circular shapes on the bottom of the bottle that indicate that the bottle is made of free-blown glass. This mark occurs when the pontil or blowing tube is broken off the bottom of the bottle. Mold lines - Mold lines and machine marks appear on many antique bottles that were made during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These often look like narrow lines or small circles on the base of the bottle. Read More 7 Old Coke Bottles Worth a Ton of Money Today Once you've found the marks, it's time to figure out what they mean. The internet is an excellent resource for identifying the markings on antique bottles. The following websites can help you determine the manufacturer and age of your bottle based on the markings: AntiqueBottles.com has a ton of information about pricing and collecting antique glass, including a page of photos of various types of pontil marks and manufacturer marks on the bottoms of bottles. Glass Bottle Marks is a great resource if you want to identify the manufacturer of a bottle since they have an alphabetical list of manufacturers and their marks. More Bottle Marks is a table of common manufacturer's markings on the bottoms of antique bottles. The Bureau of Land Management and the Society for Historical Archaeology maintain a very helpful site for identifying bottles based on their markings. This site includes some great photos. Read More 8 Rare & Valuable Depression Glass Patterns to Collect or Sell The markings on the bottle can directly affect its value. Some markings demonstrate how the bottle was manufactured, and this can be a clue about its age. For example, pontil marks typically indicate an older bottle, which is sometimes more valuable. Some pontil bottles can sell for hundreds or even thousands of dollars. Scarcity is a major factor in antique bottle values, and collectors covet certain valuable old glass bottle markings. For instance, according to Antique Bottle Trader, an amber glass blackberry brandy bottle with a star mark on it from the Pacific Glass Works was valued at about $2,200 because only 15 of these bottles exist. Quick Tip Don't worry if you don't know off the top of your head how to figure out the value of your bottle from the marks. Once you know the marks, you can research them. Look up the manufacturer, for example, to find out which of their bottles are the rarest. Understanding bottle markings can also help you spot a fake. While a pontil or a manufacturer mark might not help too much, it's the date you want to watch for. Any bottle that's stamped with a super old date deserves a bit of scrutiny. According to Historic Glasshouse, modern reproductions typically feature marks that include a date from before 1850. If you want to dig a little further into whether the marks indicate a potential fake, it's all about combining the info you have. Say your bottle was stamped with the year 1835. Check to see if it has mold lines. If it does, it's probably a reproduction because mold lines are more commonly found on bottles from the late 19th century and onward. Read More Antique Reproductions: Identification & Buying Guide The more you know about antique bottle markings, the better you'll be at finding a valuable and exciting antique bottle for your collection and spotting potential fakes. It's also handy for selling a bottle and getting the best price since potential buyers will want to know everything they can about the bottle. So grab your magnifying glass and give that bottle a good look. You'll find plenty of clues about its history right there. © 2025 LoveToKnow Media. All rights reserved. Ever stumbled upon an old glass bottle at an antique shop, flea market, or even buried in your backyard and noticed the seemingly random array of numbers and symbols embossed on its bottom? These markings aren’t just arbitrary; they’re a fascinating glimpse into the bottle’s history, revealing clues about its manufacturer, production date, and even its intended use. Understanding these codes unlocks a world of information for collectors, historians, and anyone curious about the origins of these everyday objects. Unraveling the Mystery: Understanding Bottle Markings The markings found on the bottom of glass bottles are essentially a coded language used by glass manufacturers. These markings served several purposes, from tracking production efficiency to identifying the company responsible for the bottle. While the specific codes vary depending on the manufacturer and time period, some common elements appear frequently. The Anatomy of a Bottle Mark Typical bottle markings can include several key components. These components, when deciphered, paint a picture of the bottle’s origins. Let’s explore these elements in detail: Manufacturer’s Mark or Logo: This is often the most recognizable marking, typically a symbol or abbreviation representing the glass company that produced the bottle. These marks can range from simple initials to elaborate logos. Plant Code: Many manufacturers operated multiple plants. A plant code identifies the specific factory where the bottle was made. This code could be a number, a letter, or a combination of both. Date Code: The date code indicates when the bottle was manufactured. The format of the date code varies widely. It could be a single digit representing the last digit of the year, a two-digit year, or even a more complex code system. Mold Number: Each mold used to create bottles had a unique identification number. This number helped manufacturers track mold performance and identify any defects in the bottles produced from a specific mold. Capacity or Volume Markings: Some bottles, particularly those used for beverages or pharmaceuticals, might have markings indicating the bottle’s volume or capacity in ounces, milliliters, or other units. Deciphering the Codes: A General Guide While there’s no universal decoder for all bottle markings, some general principles can help you decipher the codes you find. Understanding the types of markings and their possible meanings is the first step. Research the Manufacturer: Identifying the manufacturer is often the key to unlocking the meaning of other markings. Online resources, bottle collecting guides, and historical archives can help you identify the manufacturer based on their logo or mark. Consider the Bottle’s Style and Age: The style of the bottle can provide clues about its age and intended use. For example, a bottle with a screw-top closure is likely more recent than one with a cork closure. The type of glass, the bottle’s shape, and any embossing on the bottle’s body can offer further clues. Look for Patterns: Sometimes, the arrangement of numbers and symbols can reveal a pattern. For example, if a bottle has a single digit followed by a manufacturer’s mark, the digit might represent the last digit of the year it was made. Consult Bottle Collecting Communities: Online forums and bottle collecting clubs are valuable resources for information. Experienced collectors can often identify manufacturers and interpret markings based on their knowledge and expertise. Common Bottle Manufacturers and Their Marks Several major glass manufacturers dominated the industry for decades. Recognizing their marks is essential for identifying and dating old bottles. Here’s a look at some of the most common manufacturers and their identifying marks: Owens-Illinois Glass Company (O-I): One of the largest glass manufacturers in the world, O-I used a distinctive “I” inside an oval as their logo. Their bottles often include a two-digit plant code and a two-digit year code. Anchor Hocking: Anchor Hocking used an “H” inside an anchor as their logo. Their bottles often include a plant code and a date code, sometimes with a mold number. Ball Brothers Glass Manufacturing Company: Ball Brothers, famous for their canning jars, used a “B” inside a circle as their logo. Their jars and bottles often include a date code and a mold number. Hazel-Atlas Glass Company: Hazel-Atlas used an “A” inside a triangle above an “H” as their logo. Their bottles often include a plant code and a date code. Dominion Glass Company: A prominent Canadian manufacturer, Dominion Glass used a “D” inside a diamond as their logo. Decoding Examples Let’s consider a few examples of how to decode bottle markings: A bottle with an “I” inside an oval, followed by the number “12” and then “55”: This likely indicates that the bottle was manufactured by Owens-Illinois (O-I) at plant number 12 in the year 1955. A bottle with an “H” inside an anchor, followed by the number “7” and then “62”: This suggests that the bottle was made by Anchor Hocking at plant number 7 in the year 1962. A jar with a “B” inside a circle, followed by the number “45” and then “12”: This likely indicates that the jar was made by Ball Brothers, with a mold number of 12 and potentially manufactured in 1945 (depending on the specific Ball Brothers dating system). The Evolution of Bottle Manufacturing and Markings The methods used to manufacture glass bottles have evolved significantly over time. Understanding these changes can provide valuable context for interpreting bottle markings. Early Bottle Production: Hand-Blown Glass Before the advent of automated machinery, bottles were made by hand using a process called glassblowing. These bottles typically lack the precise markings found on machine-made bottles. Any markings present are likely to be crude and irregular. The Rise of Automated Bottle Manufacturing The invention of automated bottle-making machines in the late 19th and early 20th centuries revolutionized the industry. These machines allowed for mass production of bottles with consistent shapes and sizes. With automation came the need for more systematic marking systems to track production and identify manufacturers. Modern Bottle Manufacturing: Advanced Techniques Today, bottle manufacturing is a highly sophisticated process involving advanced technologies. Modern bottles often have subtle markings, sometimes including recycling codes and other information relevant to modern waste management practices. Why Bottle Markings Matter: Preservation of History Understanding bottle markings isn’t just a hobby; it’s a way to connect with the past and preserve history. These seemingly insignificant numbers and symbols offer a tangible link to the people and industries that shaped our world. Connecting with the Past Each old bottle tells a story. By deciphering the markings, we can learn about the manufacturer, the era in which it was made, and even the product it once contained. This knowledge allows us to appreciate the craftsmanship and innovation of past generations. Preserving Industrial Heritage Bottle markings provide valuable information for historians studying the glass industry. They can help track the growth and development of specific companies, identify regional manufacturing centers, and understand the impact of technological advancements on production methods. A Window into Consumer Culture The types of bottles produced in different eras reflect changing consumer preferences and lifestyles. Studying bottle markings can provide insights into the products people used, the brands they trusted, and the overall consumer culture of the past. Resources for Bottle Identification and Dating Identifying and dating old bottles can be challenging, but numerous resources are available to assist collectors and researchers. Online Bottle Identification Guides: Several websites offer comprehensive guides to bottle markings, manufacturer logos, and dating systems. These resources often include searchable databases and forums where you can ask for help from experienced collectors. Bottle Collecting Books: Many books have been published on bottle collecting, covering various aspects of the hobby, including identification, dating, and valuation. These books often contain detailed information on specific manufacturers and their markings. Bottle Collecting Clubs and Societies: Joining a bottle collecting club or society is a great way to learn from experienced collectors, share your discoveries, and access specialized knowledge. Museums and Historical Societies: Museums and historical societies often have collections of old bottles and can provide valuable information about local manufacturers and industries. Conclusion: Embark on Your Bottle Decoding Adventure The numbers and symbols on the bottom of old bottles are more than just random markings. They’re a coded language that unlocks a wealth of information about the bottle’s history, its manufacturer, and the era in which it was made. By learning to decipher these codes, you can embark on a fascinating journey into the past and discover the stories hidden within these everyday objects. So, the next time you find an old bottle, take a closer look at the markings on its bottom – you might be surprised at what you discover. What are the most common types of numbers found on the bottom of old bottles? The numbers found on the bottom of old bottles often include mold numbers, which identify the specific mold used to create the bottle; date codes, indicating the year or sometimes the year and month of manufacture; manufacturer’s marks, signifying the company that produced the bottle; and occasionally, capacity indicators reflecting the bottle’s volume. These numbers were crucial for quality control, inventory management, and identifying the source of any defects or issues during the bottling process. Understanding these common markings provides insight into the bottle’s history and production context. Beyond the typical mold, date, and manufacturer markings, you might also find plant codes, indicating the specific factory location where the bottle was made. There can be other identifying marks related to the bottling company or specific brand using the bottles. Some bottles may have unique codes relating to the type of glass used or recycling information. Therefore, while mold numbers, date codes, and manufacturer’s marks are the most prevalent, a thorough examination might reveal additional information about the bottle’s origins and purpose. Why were these numbers placed on the bottom of bottles, rather than another location? Numbers and marks were typically placed on the bottom of bottles for several reasons, primarily to avoid interfering with the aesthetics and branding of the bottle’s main body. Placing the markings on the bottom allowed for discreet identification and tracking without detracting from the bottle’s label or overall appearance, which was essential for marketing and consumer appeal. Furthermore, the flat surface of the bottom provided a convenient and consistent location for imprinting these markings during the manufacturing process. Another practical consideration was the protection afforded by the bottle’s base. The bottom of the bottle is less likely to be scratched or damaged during handling and shipping, which would otherwise render the markings illegible. This ensured that the information remained intact and accessible throughout the bottle’s lifespan, facilitating quality control, tracking, and potentially, return and reuse programs where applicable. How can I use these numbers to determine the age of an old bottle? Decoding the date code is the most direct way to determine the age of an old bottle. Date codes typically consist of one or two digits representing the year of manufacture. Some bottles also include a month code, which may be represented by a number (1-12) or a letter. By comparing these codes to known manufacturing timelines and manufacturer’s marks, you can narrow down the bottle’s production period. Remember that date codes often indicate the year the bottle was made, not necessarily the year its contents were bottled. Beyond the direct date code, the style and design of the bottle, combined with manufacturer’s marks, can further refine age estimation. Researching the history of the bottle’s manufacturer and the time periods they used specific marks or bottle designs will provide critical clues. Online resources and bottle collecting guides often contain detailed information on manufacturer’s marks and typical date code formats, assisting in accurate age determination. What do manufacturer’s marks tell me about the bottle? Manufacturer’s marks provide valuable information about the company that produced the bottle. These marks, often in the form of logos, initials, or unique symbols, can be used to identify the specific glass manufacturer responsible for creating the bottle. Identifying the manufacturer allows you to research their history, production methods, and the types of bottles they typically produced, which can provide context to the bottle’s origin. In addition to identifying the manufacturer, these marks can also offer clues about the bottle’s quality, the types of products it was intended to hold, and its geographic origin. For example, some manufacturers specialized in bottles for specific industries like pharmaceuticals or beverages, and their marks can indicate the intended use. Furthermore, the location of the manufacturer can sometimes be inferred from their mark, providing insight into the bottle’s potential distribution area and historical context. Are the numbers on the bottom of bottles unique? The numbers on the bottom of bottles are not necessarily unique to each individual bottle. Mold numbers, for instance, will be the same for all bottles produced using the same mold. Date codes will also be shared among bottles produced during the same time period. However, the combination of different markings, such as mold number, date code, and manufacturer’s mark, can create a relatively unique identifier for a specific batch or production run of bottles. While the individual numbers may not be entirely unique, the complete set of markings, considered together, provides a fingerprint of the bottle’s origin. The likelihood of finding two completely identical bottles with the same combination of all markings is relatively low, especially when considering variations in mold wear and other subtle differences that can arise during the manufacturing process. Therefore, the ensemble of markings helps in distinguishing between different production batches and periods. How can I find more information about a specific bottle manufacturer based on the mark on the bottom? Several online resources are available to help identify bottle manufacturers based on their marks. Websites dedicated to bottle collecting and identification often maintain databases of

and researchers have contributed significantly to the understanding of these markings. Decoding the Numbers If you're eager to decipher the numbers on the bottom of an antique bottle in your possession, there are several resources at your disposal. Online databases, forums, and collector communities are excellent starting points for gaining knowledge about glass manufacturers and their corresponding markings. Additionally, published reference books and guides dedicated to bottle identification and markings can provide valuable insights and assist in your research. Embracing the Mystery It's essential to acknowledge that not all numbers on antique bottles have been fully deciphered, and some may forever remain a mystery. Despite our best efforts, the historical context surrounding certain bottles and glass manufacturers may be lost or incomplete. However, it is precisely this air of mystery that adds to the allure and intrigue of collecting antique bottles and exploring their stories. Preserving History By studying and appreciating the numbers on the bottom of antique bottles, we can gain a deeper understanding of our past. These humble vessels offer a glimpse into the craftsmanship, technology, and social history of bygone eras. As collectors, enthusiasts, and historians, it is our duty to carefully preserve and document these artifacts, ensuring their stories are not forgotten. In Conclusion The numbers on the bottom of antique bottles carry meaning and significance that can unveil a wealth of information about their origin. Whether representing the glassmaker's identity or mold identification numbers, these markings provide valuable insights into the production and history of these captivating collectibles. Although not all numbers may have clear meanings or decipherable purposes, their presence adds to the allure and charm of the antique bottle collecting world. Collecting antique glass bottles is a hobby for many people as they are beautiful and collectible pieces. The only problem involved in the process is how to identify the bottom markings on the bottle. Most antique glass bottles come with their unique bottom markings, which make it easy to identify them. Manufacturers during the past century have been using different combinations and symbols to differentiate one batch from another. These markings also help you to know if the bottle was made by one company or another. Knowing how to identify antique glass bottles is essential when collecting them. This is because some collectors will not buy any bottle without knowing what kind of bottling it has. This guide will teach you how to identify the bottom markings of an antique glass bottle. The History of the Bottom Markings of Glass Bottles The bottoms of glass bottles often contain markings that help identify when and where they were manufactured. The most common example is Pb, which stands for plateau blanc, a type of French soda popular in late 19th-century America. However, those looking for antiques might be interested in learning more about other bottle-bottom manufacturers. An 1871 report from Canada claims that one-half of all bottles made in Birmingham (England) have on their bottoms: Letters and figures indicating their size Letters indicating their location Figures indicating the date of manufacture There are also references to distinctive markings being used as early as 1792. Classification of the Bottom Markings of Glass Bottles If you are wondering about the bottom markings of glass bottles and their importance, then wonder no more. However, you should be aware that these meanings may vary from one type of bottle to another. If you are in doubt, look for marks on the side too; most bottles have at least two lines. This classification scheme only applies to clear glass bottles with ground bottoms, like wine and liquor bottles. So if your bottle has a pontil mark or groove on the bottom, it does not apply. Colored Glass Bottles Glass bottles that have been painted or tinted can be pretty challenging to determine their original bottoms. To begin with, you'll need a glass bottle cutter. This tool looks like an oversized pair of scissors and is specifically used to cut and shape glass bottles. Once you have your tool, find a ruler or tape measure with millimeter markings. Measure across two points on the bottle's bottom and record those measurements for later use. Now you will notice that all colored glass has frosting around its edges. It's caused by the buildup of paint after many layers have been applied. This makes it difficult for light to shine through when examined under sunlight. Embossed Glass Bottles These bottles usually have a raised image or logo, with lettering often on one side. On a Coca-Cola bottle, you'll see an R followed by a number; that number is what identifies each bottling location. Unlike some bottling marks (like paper labels), embossed glass bottle markings won't wear off over time. So identifying the bottling location isn't as difficult as it could be. The only time embossed glass bottles can be tricky is when there are multiple overlapping designations within one bottom marking. Sometimes raised letters, and numbers indicating where it was made and when it was packed can also make things tricky. Identification of the Bottom Markings of Glass Bottles By reading the bottom markings. Most glass bottles will have two types of markings: embossed and stamped. The embossed design has special meanings that tell us something about the bottle and its contents. Sometimes, however, it's hard to read them. The stamped marking gives specific information about when and where it was made, but we also need some decoding skills. It's also worth noting that there are no set rules for these markings. Hence, each company uses its symbols for identification purposes. So be sure to do your research if you're buying vintage glass bottles on sites like eBay or Etsy! Mold Lines A mold line A mold line is a line or marking left on glass bottles after being blown into a mold. Mold lines run along where two pieces of glass meet. They allow you to determine whether your bottle was hand-blown or made in a machine. During manufacturing, whether by hand or machine, glass is forced into a mold with high pressure and then cooled quickly. This creates tension that leaves behind grooves known as mold lines when it cools. Since molds are imperfect, each bottle will have its unique set of lines essentially embedded in them like fingerprints. Due to their small size, you'll need to use your magnifying glass to inspect them closely. Embossed Marks Embossed mark on a bottle These are used on beer and liquor bottles. Embossed markings on the glass will tell you what type of bottle it is. Embossed marks are also helpful if you run across an old bottle in your collection. It's a good idea to keep a bottle bottom identification guide close when hunting for bottles at an antique shop. That's because different mark types can help date bottles. Pontil Marks Pontil marks The word "pontil" derives from an Italian word for a pin or nail used to form a seal on glass. When you see a mark that looks like an arrowhead, it is called a pontil mark. It indicates where one side of a bottle was attached by heated metal tongs that left impressions in the glass. The pontil rod was heated up and taken out of its cradle. After which, it is driven into the blob at one end of a bottle, leaving an impression on both sides. This process is called "working while hot" and requires great skill by the glass blower. That's because they cannot touch or hold onto any part of their work while performing this task. Mold Seams There are times when a bottle has mold seams. This means that, at some point, it was blown into a mold and allowed to cool inside it. If you find bottles with these marks in your collection, they're likely older than bottles without them. Mold seams are usually very pronounced and easy to spot because many glassmakers have their patterns. They can be almost triangular or arched in appearance. You may also see a series of small dots or lines. This is where bubbles were trapped during manufacture. These types of markings aren't exclusive to bottles made in molds. Mouth-blown bottles may have similar lines if they were cooled quickly after being removed from an annealing oven. You should take note that mouth-blown and molded bottles can have identical markings. Maker's Marks A maker's mark Several marks will help you identify glass bottles, but the first step should be learning to identify a glass maker's mark. For example, New England Glass Co. is well known for its NEG Co logo. The bottles they produce will include an embossed glass makers' mark in addition to a copyright symbol at the bottom. It's easy to remember; just think NEG! If you're familiar with these marks, it can cut down on your research time. Luckily, most bottles were produced in only a few decades. So if your bottle was made before the 1870s, you probably don't need to worry about who made it. Recognition of the Bottom Markings of Glass Bottles The bottom markings for these containers are white or yellow-and-black diamonds. They're formed in a grid pattern with four lines radiating from one point in each corner. These lines don't cross, and there is one space between each line and the point on each diamond's side. The only exception is the fourth line, which is joined at its midpoint by a horizontal bar through its center. This is a simple way to recognize the bottom markings of glass bottles based on their anatomy. Heel (on bottom) This marking is found on narrow-necked bottles, indicating that a heel was used in manufacture. A large letter H (for heel) will be printed on one side of the bottle. An inverted T (for the tool) will be found on the other. The more minor marks might not even appear if you're using plain old window glass or regular clear glass. You'll have to use high-quality flint glass. To read these markings, rotate your bottle until you see two straight lines running from one side toward another. Make sure you look at bottles from different angles since some heel markings are visible only from certain viewpoints. Pushup Businesses have several different methods they can use to measure success. One popular approach is called "measuring what's on top." This strategy looks at customer acquisition and conversion rates to determine which marketing channels drive results. However, companies also need a baseline metric that tracks overall performance, even when things aren't going according to plan. This type of measurement is known as KPI: Key Performance Indicator. This is a metric that helps you make decisions based on company goals and requirements. The bottom markings on glass bottles are often used as a KPI. That's because they provide insight into whether or not your products were exposed to hot temperatures over time. If bottom markings can be read, then it means there was no exposure. Base The base is usually thick and, due to its larger size, is usually attached to an indentation on one side. Usually, bottles have round bases, but they can also be diamond-shaped (Florence flasks) or oval-shaped (commonly called Liverpool bottles). The base is fundamental in identifying a bottle. You can often tell if a bottle has been turned over by looking at its base. if it's not natural but was cut into shape, it will be flat on top. Air will also be visible under it when placed upright. This helps determine if a bottle has been turned over before. The Value of the Bottom Markings of Glass Bottles If you have a collection of bottles and want to know if they are made in the USA, UK, or Europe and how much they are worth. The bottom of each glass bottle has a small number like 5124 that tells us where it was made. This is known as the bottom markings number. There were two major countries where glass bottles were made: England and America. So learning how to identify marks on the bottom can tell you where your bottle was made. It can also show which country it comes from, and what year it was produced. In the end, all this information will even make your bottle more valuable! Below is some information about some of the most expensive antique bottles that were ever sold: Four Bottles of Blob Top Weiss Beer Four Weiss Beer Blop Top bottles, culled from Nerdable These four bottles are of different colors, with one of them still retaining a Weiss enclosure. They are characterized by the design at the top of the bottles, which is known as a 'blop top'. They all got sold for $180. 3 Labeled Bottles of Lemp Beer 3 bottles of Lemp Beer, culled from Nerdable These 3, 12-inch bottles of Lemp beer come with their labels. Although their labels aren't in mint condition, they're still legible, and it reads, 'Lemp Buck', 'Lemp Extra Pale', and 'Lemp Tally'. These 3 bottles got sold for $300. The Dr. J. Cornwall Beer Bottle Dr. J. Cornwall beer bottle, culled from Nerdable Collectors value this bottle highly because it contains the name of its brewery-Dr. J. Cornwall Brewing Company. It also offers the location of the brewery, which is in St Louis, Missouri. This bottle has a little chipping at the top, along with natural air bubbles; it got sold for $420. National Bridge White Beer Bottles National Bridge White Beer Bottles, culled from Nerdable The design of the bottle top is very rare, while the bottles themselves have no cracks or chips. They were both sold for $2700 because of their value. Where to Buy the Bottom Markings of Glass Bottles To ensure you're buying authentic, high-quality bottoms of glass bottles, you must buy from a licensed and certified vendor. Never shop online unless you know and trust your seller. Please do some research by reading reviews, checking their license information, etc. Once you've verified that they are legitimate, search for products that interest you – and order! To get started quickly, try an auction website like eBay. You can also do a general search on Google for " bottoms of glass bottles or bottom markings for bottles." Your results will be immediate and easy to identify. Conclusion Today I went over a quick overview of identifying typical markings on glass bottles. I explained how mold numbers help identify when and where a bottle was made, and whether it is an original piece. The mold numbers will show what type of bottle it is and if it's indeed a piece of antique glass. NUMBERS ON THE BOTTOMS OF GLASS BOTTLES. I frequently receive inquiries about the interpretation of various numbers seen on the bases of glass bottles. Collectors and others are interested in understanding what the number markings on the bottoms of glass containers mean. Unfortunately, there is no "one answer fits all" to this question!! (NOTE: the article on this page is pertaining to GLASS containers, and does not apply to the subject of modern / recent PLASTIC containers, which is an entirely separate field of study, and is discussed on many other websites. The number (within a triangle with rounded corners) found on the bottom of plastic bottles is a code indicating the type of plastic the bottle is made from, and pertains to the subject of recycling) . Always look very closely over the entire glass bottle or other container to see if there is a logo (emblem, trademark, initials, or just a letter) visible that might be a mark that identifies the actual glass manufacturer. Often, a trademark or other marking is embossed on the very bottom of the bottle, or along the lower "heel" of the bottle. On many bottles, there is no such mark, with only a number or numbers to be seen. In these cases, the general style, shape, glass color and other characteristics may help narrow down the possible age range of a particular specimen. A large percentage of bottles are marked with only a number, or numbers, on the base (or the heel), and the truth is that, in many cases, it is very difficult, if not impossible to assign a specific glass manufacturer to a bottle if there is no other information embossed in the glass. Most commonly, single or double-digit numbers embossed on the bottom of a glass item are mold numbers – those numbers served to identify a particular mold (or mold section/mold cavity in use on an automatic bottle-manufacturing machine). If several identical glass molds were being used simultaneously, each mold would have been assigned a number (a number between 1 and 10, or 1 and 12, etc). If problems occurred with the finished product, it could be easily ascertained which mold is at fault. Many, many types of commonly-seen glass products have been marked with these types of mold numbers on the base, including bottles, fruit jars, jugs, flasks, candle holders, candlesticks, ashtrays, canisters, dishes, mugs, sugar bowls, salt and pepper shakers, sugar shakers, syrup pitchers, tumblers, tea glasses, punch cups, etc. ADVERTISEMENT Numbers also serve other purposes, depending on the exact item or container and/or company being discussed. Some numbers are "year/date of manufacture" codes. Some numbers (for instance, 3- or 4-digit numbers on the base of many British bottles) are catalog, inventory, style or design numbers assigned to a particular bottle shape. (Hazel Atlas Glass Company, Anchor Hocking Glass Corporation, Knox Glass Bottle Company and other bottle manufacturers made a wide variety of glass containers with those types of numbers on the base, sometimes a letter/number combination.) Those numbers would serve to identify a particular bottle style in communications/orders between the glass manufacturer and their customers ..... that is, the companies that ordered the bottles to package its products. Some numbers were factory location codes. (See my page on Owens-Illinois Glass Company, that used, and uses, location codes on many of their bottles). Mold Identifying Number "2" embossed on base of aqua "Ball Perfect Mason" jar. Many Ball fruit jars (and other brands) carry mold numbers on the base, such as the underlined "2" illustrated here. They identified the particular mold (or "mold cavity" on the jar-making machine). For more information, see my web page on the Ball Perfect Mason jars. Many Owens-Illinois Glass Company soda bottles, for a period of time, used "G-numbers" on the bottom (numerals before or after a G), which were codes for a specific bottle shape (design), irrespective of the soda brand name or glass color of the bottle. Large numbers of American-made whiskey and other spirits bottles (dating between 1935 and the 1970s or later) carry a "Liquor Bottle Permit Number" on the base along with a glass manufacturer trademark and a date code. For more information please check out my page here with a list of those liquor bottle permit numbers: Glass Industry Liquor Bottle Permit Numbers . Here's my page about the "FEDERAL LAW FORBIDS SALE OR REUSE OF THIS BOTTLE" marking seen on liquor bottles. Many liquor bottles are seen with "D-numbers" on the bottom which are distillery identification codes. Someone has put together a list of various distiller code numbers and R-numbers (Rectifier numbers) seen on a wide variety of liquor bottles, with some info on attribution. Here is a link to that page, which is a PDF file: Permit+numbers.pdf Date codes are often seen, especially on soda bottles from the 1930s to date, and many of these codes are embossed on the base of the bottle, placed to the right of the glassmaker's logo. This is true on the products of some manufacturers, but not all. Most modern glass bottles carry date codes, which are often on the heel of the bottle. These date codes are not always obvious, or easy to distinguish from mold numbers. It also depends on exactly which glass company produced the container, as all firms did not / do not use the same system of markings. ADVERTISEMENT DOTS or BUMPS around the lower heel of bottles. In many cases (especially within the last several decades), mold data information is now preserved through the use of small embossed "dots", "bumps" or raised periods arranged horizontally around the lower heel of the container. More information on this invention (which is rather involved!) and how it works can be found by doing an internet search (Google, Bing, Yahoo or other search engine), using the keyword search terms "EP 0256804 B1 " , "code reader", and "Emhart". Here are a few photos showing typical bottle bases with numbers on the bottoms. There are numerous ways in which the base of a bottle may be marked, but here are some of the more commonly seen "layouts" of the modern era. You can also see several relatively modern bottle bases on my pages about Owens-Illinois Glass Company and Brockway Glass Company. Base markings on rectangular amber bottle made by Owens-Illinois. This bottle was made in 1972 at plant number 9 which was Streator, Illinois. Base of emerald green 7-UP soda bottle made in 1951 by Owens-Illinois Glass Company. DURAGLAS was the brand name of their container glass, introduced in 1940. This particular bottle was made at plant number 7 (Alton, Illinois). G-94 was the bottle style number. "3" is a mold number. 51 is the year date code. This is an example of a typical configuration seen on many bottles. This is an emerald green soda bottle made by Foster-Forbes in 1990. The "FF in a circle" was their logo, the "18A" is the mold number. The "10" is probably the plant location code. Mold number "33" on the base of an emerald green soda bottle made by Owens-Illinois, Inc. Millions of these types of "generic" non-returnable soda bottles have been made for many years. This particular bottle was made by Owens-Illinois in 1984, as indicated by markings along the lower heel of the bottle (not visible in photo). NOTE: Please click here to go to the alphabetical list of Glass Bottle Marks , this link points to "page one". If there is an identifiable mark on the bottom of a bottle, the mark might be listed there. These pages list many commonly seen glass makers' marks such as "B inside a circle", "Diamond and oval with an I", "I inside a diamond", "O in a square", as well as initials such as "S B & G CO", "R & CO", "A B CO", "F C G CO", "I. G. CO." and many others. Please click here to go to my website HOME (Welcome) page. ADVERTISEMENT Numbers, letters, symbols, and names are all examples of these. Pontil marks on the bottom of the bottle are circular shapes that indicate that it is made of free-blown glass. Many antique bottles made in the late 19th and early 20th centuries have mold lines and machine marks on them. Simply put, what do the numbers on the bottoms of old glass bottles mean? Many liquor bottles have "D-numbers," which are distillery identification codes, on the bottom. Date codes are frequently seen, particularly on soda bottles from the 1930s to the present, and many of them are embossed on the bottle's base, which is located to the right of the glassmaker's logo. What do the numbers on the bottoms of beer bottles mean, in addition to the above? On the base of many bottles, there is only one number (or numbers). These marks were usually used to identify molds, indicating a specific mold used by a glass factory. If a number of identical molds were used to make a specific type of bottle, they would frequently be serially numbered (e.g. 1 to 12). People also inquire as to how to identify old bottles. Look for old bottles with the distinctive crown top on them. A bottle's age will be revealed by embossed maker's mark or letters on the side or at the base of it. Age and origin are frequently indicated by the marks or letters on collectible milk bottles and Coca-Cola bottles. What do the blue mason jar numbers on the bottom mean? The bottom of many Ball mason jars has a number printed on it, but this is a mold number with no indication of the year of production. Instead, the mold number indicates where the jar was placed on the glass-making machine used to make it. How do you know how old a bottle of whiskey is? In 2-digit format, most bottle manufacturers molded the year into the glass at the bottom of the bottle. When looking at the bottom, you'll often find it in the lower right section (some dates are much easier to distinguish than others). This will usually tell you when the whiskey was bottled within a year or two. How do I determine the value of old glass bottles? While not all old bottles are valuable, an older one is more likely to be worth more than a newer. The age of a bottle can be determined by seams and pontil marks. The pontil mark was attached to the glass blower's pontil rod at the bottom of the bottle. Is it worth buying old soda bottles? Looking at the price of that bottle gives you a better idea of what it's worth. How do you get old bottles out of the ground to be cleaned? What you should do is conduct your own research. Don't craft with a national treasure? Soak the bottles in water. Fill the bottom of a large pot with water after pouring a generous glug of vinegar. Scrub the bottles' interiors. Scrub the bottle's outside VERY thoroughly. What are the value of old milk bottles? It's important to know how much your milk bottle is worth before you buy or sell it. Depending on a variety of factors, these bottles can range in price from $10 to $200 or more. Is there a seam on old glass? The coarseness of the edges along the mold lines is a similar characteristic. Early glass was pressed into molds for much longer, and the molds were clamped together under less pressure than modern glass. Mold seams on modern glass are very smooth. Bubbles can occur in any glass, but they are more common in older glass. How do you know if a bottle has been blown by hand? Take a close look at the mold seam, as well as where the lip meets the bottle. An applied lip is on all true hand-blown bottles. When a lip is formed onto the bottle and applied by hand, the curious student of glass items will quickly learn. What is the tiniest antique bottle you've ever seen? Cobalt blue is the most valuable example. The majority of aqua globular bottles are priced between $200 and $400. What are the value of old Mason jars? Understanding the Value of Antique Canning Jars Many canning jars sell for less than $15, but their value depends on a variety of factors. An upside-down Ball canning jar with a lid, according to Country Living, was made between 1900 and 1910 and is relatively rare. It's worth around $1,000.