Glowforge Laser Engraver Videos & How-To(s)

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Terms

There are some terms that you'll see frequently when working with the laser.

SVG - Acronym for scalable vector graphic. This is a common file type used with lasers.

Class 1- The Glowforge is a class 1 laser. It's safe to look at with the protection provided when the top is closed.

Digital Caliper -The tool used to measure the thickness of material.

Uncertified Material - This is the term Glowforge uses for any material put in the laser that isn't made by Glowforge.

When using any material not made by Glowforge the setting for the thickness needs to be put into the Glowforge App.

Glowforge safety Guidelines:

Do not put anything inside the Glowforge that is not laser compatible.

Do not stack materials; for example attempting to cut two or more sheets of material at a time. Multiple sheets are more likely to burn.

Clean out leftover bits inside the Glowforge unit when it builds up

Do not leave things on, or around the Glowforge.

Do not touch the head or arm of the Glowforge unit while the power is on. If you do so by accident, turn it off, then back on again to prevent the possibility of damage.

Do not try to service, repair, or modify the Glowforge unit

In the event of an emergency or malfunction, unplug the power cord on the back of the unit

When a print is complete, certain materials, like plastics, can remain hot. Allow them to cool down before touching them.

While in use...

Never leave the Glowforge unit unattended while operating - always stay within sight.

Only operate the Glowforge unit when the filter is attached and turned on. If there is an odor check the fan level on the filter and turn it up higher if possible.

Some materials cause more smoke & fumes than others. To prevent smoke and fumes from escaping the unit, wait for fumes and smell to dissipate before opening the lid. This can take up to two (2) minutes after the job is complete.

Look inside frequently; the flame should move with the laser. If there is a lasting flame inside the Glowforge unit that does not extinguish when the laser has moved past:

Pushing the Teal button on top right will pause the print.

Opening the lid stops the machine

Pull the plug on the back of the unit if needed.

If flame continues and it is safe to do so, extinguish the flame with the fire blanket or a wet towel.

If that is not an option, when it is safe to do so, fire extinguisher. - Locate both the fire blanket and fire extinguisher before beginning the print job.

If the fire cannot be extinguished, or if it spreads outside the Glowforge, call 911 and evacuate the building.

Because the operation of this machine is a severe fire hazard and can cause real damage to the building and personal injury the consequences are very severe. If you are found to be not following these safety procedures, you will be denied access to this piece of equipment.