

CMC

CMC is an abbreviation for carboxyl methyl cellulose. This is a whitish powder which has been used by the ceramic industry for decades and is a common ingredient used to control viscosity in the food industry. It's available from most ceramic supply stores.

The most common use of CMC for the glass artist is as a binder or glue. Mixing a pint of boiling water with several heaping tablespoons of powdered CMC results in an inexpensive glue that can be used for pate de verre or as a general purpose glue for glass work. It burns off cleanly in the kiln, and is non-toxic (it's even used as a food additive).

Although it's a bit harder to find, CMC is also available in pre-mixed (liquid) form. A related chemical, methyl-ethyl-cellulose, is the major ingredient in Klyr-fire, a binder marketed by Thompson Enamel.