# MAKING GLASS

The raw materials used in making glass are sand, soda lime, potash and lead oxide. These materials are thoroughly mixed together. The mixture is melted in a furnace at a very high temperature to produce molten glass. At the molten stage, it is shaped and cooled in order to form rigid glass. The rigid glass is heated again and it is allowed to cool gradually. This process of reheating and allowing to cool is called *annealing*.

Window glass is produced by drawing a continuous vertical sheet from a pool of molten glass. Plate glass is made by rolling from the molten glass. During the forming process, it is possible that various parts of the glass may be at different temperatures, and will solidify at different times. This will make each part to contract by different amounts as it cools. Such differences in contraction will cause internal pressure to develop and cause damage. We prevent this by annealing.