

# Glazing

TIPS AND  
TECHNIQUES



Here are some general guidelines to glazing your work:

## Step by step instructions:

1. Piece must be bisque fired.
2. Wipe all surfaces with a damp sponge.
3. Always keep glazes well stirred and not too thick.
4. Glazes are water soluble, and so tend to thicken some each day. If you feel a glaze is too thick, after stirring it completely by hand, ask for help. A glaze applied too thickly will run off the piece during firing; a glaze applied too thinly will come out brown in color, with a rough texture.
5. Dip the piece into glaze, count to one, remove immediately.
6. If your glaze surface cracks upon drying, you have applied it too heavily; in this case, wash it completely and glaze it another day. If you can see the surface of your pot through the glaze, you have applied it too thinly; wait until it dries, and dip it again.
7. Brush, squirt, pour or spray on second glaze or oxide if desired.
8. Touch up any blemishes or finger marks when pot is dry, not wet.
9. Decorating on the glaze can be done with oxides. These include: iron oxide for red-browns, cobalt for blues, rutile for grey-yellow, copper carbonate for greens and reds, and chrome oxide for green. The oxides should have a ink-like consistency.
10. Wipe the bottom and 1/4" up on all sides with a sponge before setting it on the glaze shelves to be fired.

## Final tips:

- Always record your work and how you glazed it in your notebook.
- Try to achieve an even coat of glaze.
- Glazes can be overlapped (no more than two coats) to get different results
- Always glaze the *inside* first.
- Never hold anything by its handle until *after* the glaze firing.
- **DO NOT** spill or pour one glaze into another glaze bucket.
- When choosing glazes to use together, think about complementary colors
- Be alert!! Watch and learn from yours and others' mistakes.
- Take your time - **DON'T RUSH** - glazing is permanent!

## Firing temperatures:

Bisque firing, Cone 06 - 1859 °F

Glaze firing- Cone 6 - 2246 °F

## Remember these terms:

Glaze - A glassy or vitreous coating whose primary purposes are decoration, strength, and protection (sanitation).

Vitreous - Having a shiny and nonporous surface.

Clay - A heavy, damp, plastic material that "sets" upon drying and can be changed by heat into a hard waterproof material.

Greenware - clay that is unfired, it can be wet or dry and still be considered greenware.

Cheese-hard - soft, slightly flexible, stage right before leather-hard, can connect handles and other attachments.

Leather-hard - hard, not flexible, last stage to connect handles, slip can be applied.

Slip - Clay particles suspended in water, has a yogurt consistency, can yield bright colors (colored slip), or can be used for connecting handles or other attachments (construction slip).

Bone-dry - clay is very hard, color lightens, too late to connect attachments, and is very fragile (handle with both hands). Ready to be bisque fired (first firing).