

Firing / Kiln Instructions & Tips Reference Guide (September 22, 2024)

- Items built with clay slabs should not be thinner than 1/3 inch to prevent possible warping during firing. Also, extremely thin items are prone to cracking. Items too thick can lose their structural integrity and blow up if not dry all the way through.
 - Be aware of size limitations of each kiln as you build your projects.
 - If you have a small crack in your greenware piece, take the time to repair it correctly before placing the item on the greenware shelf in Room A. The crack will only get larger when fired.
 - Please ensure your creation is level at the base and can stand on its own. If a piece can't stand up on its own, it can't stand up on a kiln shelf.
 - Be aware that if a pot or item can't be picked up safely it will be challenging to load/unload in the kiln.
 - Remove all foreign materials used during construction (foam, newspaper, etc.) prior to placing item on any shelf in Room A. This includes drying boards.
 - If the kiln committee cannot safely fire your piece, a note will be attached stating the concern.
 - The White Board on the door of Room B indicates the current firing schedule.
 - It is the responsibility of each member to understand each shelf label in Room A. Place in progress items on the properly labeled shelf. If unsure, ask.
 - Know the difference between low fire and mid fire glazes and read the labels on each bottle of glaze. If you have questions, ask for help from the kiln committee or a qualified club member.
 - Mid Fire Glazed Items – Be aware mid fire pieces can shrink up to 18% after drying and bisqueware and glaze firings. Also, a piece may warp if too thin or appendages are too long.
 - All items less than one inch in size must have no glaze on the bottom.
 - Mid Fire Glazes – Know your glazes; read the directions and guidelines for each glaze you use. Some glazes are prone to run. If a glaze tends to run it may be appropriate to apply less glaze near the bottom of your piece.
 - Mid Fire Glazes – Know your glazes; how many coats to apply and temperature it can be fired.
 - Mid Fire Glazed Items – No items with mid fire glazes will be stilted.
 - If the glaze on your piece runs onto the kiln shelf you may be asked to clean it.
 - Remove all your projects from drying racks or any shelf prior to an extended studio absence, i.e., leaving at end of the season, multi-week vacation.
- 2 Final Draft – 9/22/24 / Replaces Revision 1 – July 29, 2024
- See kiln personnel to access a mold in Room B.
 - Please know that things can happen during a firing that are out of the control of the kiln committee member and are not any one person's fault.
 - Room B (kiln room) is off limits to all except for the kiln staff. Also, members are not to handle or use stilts, cookies, "furniture," or portable kiln shelves.

- Kiln committee members are all volunteers and trained to the best of their abilities to fire your pieces properly. Together when you follow these tips and instructions, and the kiln committee follows their instructions quality workmanship is the result.
- Please inscribe your name on each piece of your work. This ensures the piece is yours. It can eliminate confusion when picking up work. It also allows a kiln committee member to call you if they have questions.
- Only place completely bone-dry items on the greenware shelf in Room A. If item is cool to the touch, it isn't bone-dry. (A freshly made piece may take a week of drying before firing; more if it is large.)
- Clean and return the drying board used to dry your piece to its storage area.
- Do not handle projects that are not yours. Leave space between projects on shelves. Do not bump others' work.
- If appropriate, leave a specific note on your item with instructions for the kiln committee. Your note should include contact information.
- Mid Fire Glazed Items – Clean/remove all glaze from the bottom of each item. Also, ensure glaze is cleaned/removed at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the bottom of the item.
- Low Fire Glazed Items Only – You may cover the bottom of your bisqueware with low fire glaze; it will be stilted.