

SAFETY

Dry Skin:

Almost everybody suffers from dry skin after working with clay. Creams and lotions after working are recommended, however, not while cleaning or painting a ceramic piece.

Back Injuries:

One of the most common occupational hazards to ceramic pourers comes from poor lifting habits related to molds.. Ceramic molds can be very heavy, and using caution is extremely important not only for yourself, but for the protection of the mold as well. Molds can be damaged very easily and some of our molds can not be replaced. Be sure you are capable of handling a mold prior to lifting it. Seek help from someone who might be able to assist. Stand close to your load. Do not reach over for a heavy item. Place your feet on both sides of the heavy item, bend the knees and squat down. Lift by straightening the legs. Lift by bending knees while keeping the back straight.

Wrist Injuries:

Carpal tunnel syndrome and tendon problems can be caused by overuse or misuse of wrists or/and other joints and muscles. If you begin to feel pain while working you have to rest or change the hand positions. If you feel tingling in the hand or arm during the night change the hand positions or stop the activity that causes swelling or muscle constriction of the nerve. In mild cases you can use a splint from the pharmacy to immobilize the wrist during the night until it heals. If throwing on the wheel or wedging is the offending activity, try changing the way it is done. Use the body more and the wrist less. Take regular breaks. Try some hand building.

Equipment:

Before using any equipment such as the “Slap Roller”, “Clay Wheel”, etc., individuals must attend a class in that area of knowledge and use. Safety glasses must be worn when using the grinder, or dremel.

Cleanliness:

Cleaning up your work area after you finish is a requirement of the club. Whether you poured, sculpted, or used the clay equipment, the area in which you used must be cleaned. This includes the sink, pouring table, etc.. If you used it, clean it. We do not have room for empty boxes, so if you bring a box in, please take it out with you.