

POTTERY FOR PLEASURE CLAY INFORMATION

Clays for use in our studio:

*****Only clay purchased through PFP can be used in the studio.*****

- Clays are stored in the closet in the studio.
- The clay type/number is listed on the outside of each box
- Clay comes in 25-pound cubes/tubes packaged in plastic bags.
- Each plastic bag is numbered.

Types of clay we use in our studio:

All of our clays are medium fire clays. These clays are fired in the kiln to Cone 5 (2167F) or Cone 6 (2232F).

Brown Clays:

- 112: Speckled Brown Clay: The speckles will show through many glazes, which creates a very pleasant and variegated effect.
- 225: Tan stoneware without specks.

White Clays:

- 240: White stoneware body with smooth, plastic qualities. This clay is good for both throwing and hand building..
- LL: Little Loafers: Porcelain-like, white clay, very smooth. No grog.
- 563: White stoneware with fine grog.
- B-Mix: Has smooth, porcelain texture. It fires to a cream color.
- 365: Grolleg Porcelain : White, tight, translucent when thin. Marble-like quality. No grog. A clay more for advanced potters.

**Grog is a gritty material that gives the clay strength which can make it easier to throw and hand build. It reduces clay shrinkage and cracking which makes firing easier, and it adds texture to the pottery too.

Special order clays are available. See list on back of clay closet door.

Properties of clay:

- Plasticity - A property exhibited by soft clay. Any changes in shape remains and the clay exhibits no tendency to return to the old shape.
- Leather hard - Clay that has dried slightly and is strong but still wet enough to be shaped.
- Bone dry - Dry clay is also known as 'greenware'. The clay is at its most fragile and needs careful handling to prevent breakages. Dry clay needs to be fired in the kiln in order to make it strong enough to use. Any sharp edges that are not smoothed at this stage will become solid in the bisque firing. Final finishing of work before bisque firing is done with a damp sponge.
- Shrinking - Shrinkage occurs in the production of pottery and affects it during both the drying and firing. Different clay types have different amounts of shrinkage, ranging from about 11-13%.

- Bisque - Clay which has been fired once in the kiln. Clay at this stage is hard, but still porous enough to absorb glaze. Glaze is applied to bisque for the final firing.
- Glaze Fired - After a second firing, the clay and glaze have fused making a non porous surface.

Factors to consider when choosing clay type:

- Whether you plan to hand build, sculpt, or wheel throw your piece.
- The surface texture and color you'd like.
- The intended use of your piece.

How to purchase clay:

- Clay can be purchased at any time. The cost per bag is posted in the studio clay closet.
- Select the clay you prefer from the cardboard boxes in the clay closet..
- Record the number found on the plastic bag and the type of clay on the chart posted on the inside of the glaze closet door.
- Record bag number on your check and place check in Treasurer's mail box in the studio.

Storing clay prior to use:

- Store in tightly sealed plastic bags in the clay bin provided to you.
- If your clay dries out, It can be re-constituted by covering in damp towels in a plastic bag or immersing in water.