

Handout - Glazing

Take This



Unglazed Bowl

Make This



Glazed Bowl

Read

Preparation: Once ceramic pieces have been fired for the first time (bisque fired) they are ready to be glazed. Select the glazes for the project.

Selecting the glazes: There are two kinds of glazes offered in this class. Cone 05 glazes that mature (melt) at about 1800°F and Cone 5 glazes that mature (melt) at about 2100°F. The cone 05 glazes provide a greater range of colors and are recommended for use with the seat and rack markers. The cone 5 glazes create a stronger piece of ceramics and are used on the Empty Bowls Project and any project used to eat out of or needs to be more durable. Glaze containers have names and number on them. There is a chart next to the glazes with pictures of how the glaze should look after the final firing. Select containers of glaze for the project.



Looking at glazes and chart to help select glazes

Preparation: Mix glazes before using. Glaze contains water, colorants and chemicals (think of it as pulverized glass) that create the glass when fired. The chemicals are normally heavier than the water and therefore settle to the bottom of the container. Before using a glaze, it is **very important** that it is mixed. Mix glazes by shaking the container; Making sure the lid is on securely before you begin shaking it.



NO!!!

Don't shake without holding lid



Yes

Two ways to hold lid in place



Yes

Another way to mix the glaze in the container is with the end of a paint brush.



Stirring the glaze with the end of a paint brush

Check the glaze with a brush to make sure the glaze is mixed thoroughly.

Applying the glaze: There are several different ways to apply glaze. The piece being glazed and the amount of glaze available will determine which glaze to use.

Dipping: If you have a sufficient amount of glaze, dip the pot in the glaze bucket (Cone 5 white is the only glaze we have in this quantity). This method will give you the most even coverage of glaze.



Dipping a bowl in the glaze bucket

Preparing to dip the pot: Paint wax on the bottom and 1/8" up the side, of any piece being dipped. This will reduce the amount of glaze that will need to be cleaned off from the bottom of the pot. After applying the wax and letting it dry, use the pliers and dip the pot in the container of glaze. When dipping, put the piece in the glaze and quickly take it back out. The glaze will be too thick and run off the piece during firing if you leave the piece in the glaze too long.

Glazing the inside of a bowl or vase: Using a container, pour glaze into the inside of a bowl or vase and then quickly pour the excess glaze out. This is the 2nd best way to get an even coat of glaze on the inside of your piece. Pouring should always be done on the inside of a piece of ceramics before painting the outside.



Pouring glaze into and pouring excess glaze out of a bowl

Painting: Seat and rack markers and other decorative pieces are painted. Painting is very straight forward. Mix the glaze before painting (see glaze preparation). Two coats of glaze are necessary when painting.



Painting a seat marker

Loading: After glazing the ceramic piece it can be loaded into the kiln. Two important things to think about when loading pieces of ceramics in the kiln:

1. There should be **no glaze on the bottom** of the piece of ceramics. Glaze melts during the firing process and if there is glaze on the bottom of the piece, it will melt and weld itself to the kiln shelf. This will ruin both the piece of ceramics and the shelf.
2. **Remember which glaze was used** so it is loaded into the correct kiln. Mixing pieces with different kinds of glazes can cause damage to the ceramics and kiln shelf.

Glaze does not need to be dry to be loaded into the kiln.

Watch – The Video.

Do – This is when students put what they have learned into action.