



Ceramics 101 Greenware and Glazeware

The process for making a clay model is as follows:

1. Cut the clay into individual pieces from the bulk slab.
2. Shape the clay into the form or forms you desire. Use slab or coil making techniques.
3. Score both pieces to join, use a dab of water or slip to mold them together.
4. Embellish the clay by carving or imprinting designs.
5. Let clay dry for 7-10 days (at least one week), depending on thickness. A good test to determine if it is dry—hold the clay to your cheek. If it still feels cool then it will need to dry longer.
6. Fire clay (green ware) in the kiln using the programming guide for greenware. Greenware pieces can touch in the kiln and will not stick together while firing.
7. After the firing in the kiln, unload the items. Clean any dust or fragments from the kiln shelves and base. Items may now be glazed.
8. Glaze pieces—use the Stroke and Coat glaze sparingly. One layer is sufficient.
9. Clean glaze off the bottom of pieces to prevent adhering to the kiln. Use a wet paper towel or rag to wipe off excess glaze off the bottoms of pieces to avoid project sticking to the kiln shelf.
10. Unload the kiln, remove the shelves and stilts and store them on the metal shelves. Sweep up any debris in the kiln.
11. Enjoy the final result!

Clay Terminology

1. Clay: worn down rock (silica and alumina).
2. Plastic: Quality of clay, the ability to shape it and still keep its form
3. Vitreous: When fired, the sand in the clay fuses together and becomes hard and waterproof like glass.
4. Scoring: scratching both surfaces of the clay prior to joining so the pieces will adhere together.
5. Greenware: Clay that has been formed and completely dried (not cool to the touch). Clay is extremely fragile in this state).
6. Bisque Firing: The first firing of your clay (greenware) after it is completely dry. This firing is Cone 04 and will make the pieces harder and stronger.



7. Glazeware: Glazed clay that is ready to be fired in the kiln.

8. Glaze firing: The final firing of a glazed clay piece (glazeware). The firing is Cone 06 and the piece will be colored, water resistant and glossy