

CERAMICS STUDIO TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL GLAZING (*THE SHORT VERSION*)

1. Rinse your piece under running water. There are two reasons this should be done: clean the surface and add moisture to the clay body. Be sure your hands are clean. A sponge will only result in a dirty pot. Spray bottles do not put enough moisture in the clay body.
2. Wax any part that is within ¼" of a kiln shelf. Hot or cold wax may be used.
3. Choose your glaze and stir it well. It may take several minutes to make sure the glaze is truly mixed. Scrape the bottom and corners of the bucket, if there are any lumps on the stirring brush keep going. Stir not only around in a circle, but also up and down to make sure the heavy materials at the bottom are in the solution.
4. Quickly dip your piece in the bucket. If your piece will not fit in the bucket, use a basin or consider spraying your piece. There is no need to dip twice if using a single color. You do not need to let the piece "soak" in the bucket. Pour out excess glaze right away.
5. Let the piece dry before handling. Be patient! It may take 30 minutes before a piece is dry enough to handle.
6. Never completely cover a piece in two glazes. If you are dipping a second color--caution and foresight are your friends. Use the second glaze as a highlight. The first glaze should be dry enough to handle before dipping the second glaze. This helps prevent cross-contamination. Look at the glaze wall to see examples and judge how much your combination will run.
7. Wipe off any glaze on the bottom of your piece with a sponge. If a piece is not properly dry-footed, it will be placed on the reject shelf.
8. Fill out a slip with your name, the date and the glazes used. Place the slip with your piece in the kiln room.
9. Find correct place in the kiln room to leave your work. Work should be placed as far back on the shelf as possible.
10. Fired work can be picked up in Studio 2 from the glaze work cart after firing. It can take up to two weeks to get a piece back.