

EARTHENWARE GLAZING

Technical Tips and
Product Information

#11

- Earthenware glazes should NEVER be fired in a gas kiln under a reduction atmosphere. This could result in colours and effects being markedly different from the supplier's advertised colour.
- Average glaze heating rate is between 70°C-100°C/hr resulting in an 11-16 hour firing. Firing slower or faster could alter the performance of glazes.
- Soaking glaze firings at the top firing temperature is equivalent to firing at a higher temperature.
NOTE: this may cause glazes to be overfired and change their performance.
- Glazes cannot be combined (stirred together) with any assurance that the resulting mixture will be
 - (1) a proper glaze, or
 - (2) your preferred colourAs each glaze has a different chemical formula, blending is not always successful.
- Ensure that cone temperature equivalencies reflect Orton publications.

BRUSH ON GLAZE

- Always apply according to the manufacturer's instructions on the container.
- Only apply to bisque fired clay (unless tested under your studio conditions for raw glazing).
- Fire between 1060°C - 1100°C
NOTE: cadmium based glazes prefer 1060°C
- Stir well to ensure even distribution of materials and colourants.
- Apply to dust and grease free surfaces. Sponge surfaces thoroughly before glazing.
- Apply each coat of glaze with a large, soft Hake brush.
NOTE: An average coat of glaze is equivalent to a coat of house paint applied to a wall.
- Insufficient glaze application will give 'stingy' glaze results, i.e. insufficient colour, gritty surfaces, bare spots and different colours.
- Excessive glaze will result in glazes running on vertical surfaces and stick the pottery to the kiln shelf. Over application, on horizontal surfaces, will result in excessive pooling in recessed areas, possible cracking of the glaze/pottery item, or glaze beading/crawling giving an orange peel effect.
- Can be applied over other earthenware glazes for new glaze effects. However, this may differ from the individual effects of each glaze.
- Best applied to earthenware and terracotta clays only (not raku, mid-fire, stoneware or porcelain). Because coloured opaque glazes block out the dark clay colour they perform better on terracotta than transparent glazes
- Glaze should be stored in a cool, dark place to ensure a long shelf life.
- Do not apply glaze to the foot of pots unless firing pottery items on ceramic stilts at temperatures less than 1120°C.
- Dried glaze cannot be re-wet. It is permanently dry from the binders and will never soften for re-use.
- Wash brushes out in water unless the glaze has fully dried.