

Basic Steps for Glazing

What is glaze? Glaze is made up of Silica which melts to form glass, Alumina which keeps the glass from flowing too much, and a Flux which allows the silica to melt at lower temperatures. The proportion of these ingredients, plus colorants and firing of the kiln affect the color and opacity of the glaze.

1. **Prepare:** Record description of pottery and glaze technique in notebook.

Wipe bisque ware with a clean, damp cloth to remove dust.

Avoid sanding - **Clay dust is harmful to breathe!**

2. **Wax foot**, if desired. Wax resist is a liquid wax emulsion used to keep the foot and lid rims free of glaze. Also used over glazes for decoration.

3. **Stir glaze.** Glaze is a suspension and settles. Keep glaze stirred.

4. **Application:** Glaze the inside of pot first. Apply glaze evenly, avoid drips.

Methods: a) Dip piece quickly, the longer in glaze the thicker application.

b) Brush or sponge 2-3 coats evenly. Do not dry brush.

c) Pour glaze from a cup over piece, avoid overlapping thickly

5. **Overglaze:** For interesting, decorative effects: Clean foot first.

- Brush or sponge - use quick strokes, do not allow brush to drag
- Pour - Holding pot, quickly pass under stream of pouring glaze.
- Dip - hold pot by foot, dip rim. Do not dip more than halfway - glaze will run off pot in firing!

6. **Clean foot:** Scrape excess glaze from foot, wipe across sponge mat.

7. **Check pottery** carefully for even coverage, drips, etc. Make sure foot is clean.

Put piece on glaze firing shelf in kiln room. If pot is not glazed well or foot not cleaned, it will not be fired!

Remember:

- **Clay dust is harmful to breathe!** Avoid creating clay dust.
- Keep a notebook to record glazes, glaze combinations, and ideas.
- Do not double dip!
- Keep glaze stirred. Do not shake small jars, stir them.
- Never eat or drink when glazing.
- Wipe your feet!