

Terms of Use

All work must be 100% dry (bone dry) and no longer cool to the touch before being dropped off. If there is any moisture left in the work, at best it will crack and at worst it will explode, ruining others work.

Glaze must be entirely wiped off the bottom of works and the sides to a minimum of 5mm above the base (this includes underglaze). Even a tiny amount of glaze on the base can fuse your piece to the kiln shelf, leaving dangerous glass shards behind and damaging both your piece and the kiln shelf! This will incur a \$50 repair fee.

No solid pieces of clay (more than 5cm thick) or hollow, sealed pieces may be fired. Any hollow items must have a hole included to allow air to escape during firing (otherwise it will explode, ruining yours and others work!)

Work must not contain any materials other than clay (e.g. wood, metal etc.) as this can damage the kiln.

Your name or maker's mark must be clearly engraved on your work- we'd hate for your pieces to get mixed up or lost.

The clay and glaze used *must* match the firing temperature of the chosen firing. It is imperative that only stoneware clay (not midfire or earthenware) is fired in the stoneware firing etc. and that your chosen glazes and underglazes can be fired to the chosen temperature also.

Please check the labels of your materials to check that they all match up, and if you are not 100% sure just get in touch with us.

Getting to know your materials is an important part of learning ceramics and can prevent most accidents.

The kiln can be a volatile environment, and pottery is fragile.

While we take all possible precautions to keep your work safe and handle each piece with the love and care we would our own, we can not take responsibility for mishaps or accidents. The firing service is used at your own risk.

Biscuits

A biscuit is an unglazed and already bisque-fired disc made of a clay that can be fired to or above the firing temperature your piece is being fired to. The biscuit must be roughly the same size as the base of the item. We have some available to borrow- please get in touch.

You **must** use a biscuit if:

Firing work that is glazed in a runny glaze/one you are unfamiliar with or have mixed yourself

and not yet used/is glazed thickly.

Your work was made using BRT clay (Buff Raku Trachyte) or other iron-heavy clays (note- your biscuit must not be made from that same clay)

Glossary of terms

Greenware- pottery that has not yet been fired.

Bone dry- the stage of greenware where the clay is completely dried and ready to fire. It is porous, fragile and should not be trimmed! It will usually look a lot lighter than leather hard, and be less cool to the touch.

Cone- Temperature alone does not provide enough information to describe what is happening inside a kiln. Pyrometric cones are a measurement of 'heat work' (how hot a kiln gets and how long it took to get that hot).

Firing- the process of bringing clays and glazes up to the right temperature for the right amount of time so that they 'mature' and reach the perfect level of vitrification (i.e. impervious, solid and glassy)

Glaze firing- generally the second firing that takes place after a bisqued piece has been glazed. This firing is hotter than the first firing.

Stoneware- dense pottery that is fired at high temperatures and ends up completely non- porous/vitrified. Stoneware firings are heated to cone 9 or 10 (approx 1280C)

Midfire- lower-fired stoneware that still vitrified fully, but requiring less energy. Can be anywhere from cone 4 or 6.

Earthenware- non-vitreous pottery that is fired to lower temperatures. Terracotta is earthenware.

Bisque- The first firing that turns clay into ceramic. It is still porous (not vitrified) at this state, and takes on glaze well without risk of falling apart.