

Quail Creek Pottery and Sculpture Club
GLAZING CERTIFICATION
Handout
GLAZING INSTRUCTIONS

1. **CLEAN HANDS** - no lotions.
2. **ALWAYS CLEAN BISQUE WARE** Wipe with slightly damp cellulose sponge (the small orange ones). Remove any loose clay particles and dust or sponge bits which will contaminate the glazes. Remember that all rough edges should be handled before bisque firing.
3. **APPLY WAX RESIST** using only a brush from the Wax Resist bin or your own. Brush wax on the bottom of your piece and a minimum of 3/8 inch from the base. Let dry completely. Note: Dip brush in soap before use for a protective coating and easier clean up. **CLEAN brush with HOT SOAPY WATER.** It is recommended that members have their own brushes clearly marked for "wax only".
4. **ASSEMBLE YOUR TOOLS** e.g. brushes, applicators, containers, sponge, tongs.
5. **CHOOSE YOUR GLAZE** - refer to "Glaze Wall" and glaze shelf. Pay careful attention to how the glazes interact if layered over or under one another.
Be very thoughtful as to how much a glaze might run and leave adequate space. A minimum of 2" on outside vertical surfaces is recommended.
6. **MIX GLAZE THOROUGHLY** - Use a flat wood stick or drill with mixing attachment for the large buckets. Shake then test bottom, with a stick, of smaller containers. In both cases ensure that glaze has not settled on the bottom. Do a "finger test" with a dry finger to check that glaze is the consistency of cream - you should be able to see the outline of your fingernail. Speak with a Monitor if the glaze is too thick or too thin. Some glazes settle quickly so stir frequently.

7. **GLAZE** - Your piece is now ready to be glazed using one of the following methods:

BRUSH piece after decanting a reasonable amount into a smaller container. Use a pipette or small scoop. Brush 1 to 3 coats in alternating directions depending on desired coverage. Use as large a brush as possible with a smaller brush or pipette for hard to reach places. Use a long overlapping stroke. Consider using a sponge for the final coat to reduce brush marks or to add a contrasting glaze. Wait for the previous coat to dry thoroughly before applying another coat (a matter of a few minutes, after the first coat loses its wet “sheen”).

DIP piece in glaze bucket to the count of “One One Thousand”. Allow excess to drain back into bucket. Remove tong marks when piece is dry by gently smoothing over with a dry finger. When glaze is dry small bubbles and drip marks can be smoothed with a dry finger, sponged off or sanded (use a mask if sanding and let excess glaze fall onto a dampened piece of paper towel or cloth to reduce dust which can be toxic). If **DIPPING A SECOND GLAZE** apply second glaze when first glaze has completely lost its wet sheen.

POUR glaze from measuring cup into or on your piece over the glaze bucket or appropriately sized container to catch run off glaze. Balance your oversized piece on flat sticks positioned over a large bowl or plastic container.

8. **CLEAN** all glaze off the bottom of your piece. Clean all your equipment and jars and return to the appropriate place. **Attach “cookies” if required.**

9. **FILL IN GLAZE SECTION ON WORKSHEET** - This record is for the Kiln Master as well as for yourself. Consider taking a picture of your glazed piece with the glaze sheet beside it for future reference as to where the glaze was placed on the piece. After firing take another picture with the end results.

10. **MOVE** your finished piece to the GLAZE shelves with the WORKSHEET filled in.

There are important reasons for these guidelines: We want your pieces to turn out well, glaze is expensive so use it thoughtfully and be considerate of other potters and our efforts to keep the studio clean and well organized. Thanks.