

Glazing Worksheet: THE BASICS

“What glaze is?”:

Glaze is a clay blend, more similar to glass than clay, which is added to the surface of a (bisque fired) constructed form, fired in the kiln, and fused to the form.

A potter does NOT have to finish glazing in one period.

Keep pots in cabinet; try to clear off rack next to sink, they are in danger if left sitting there...

Step ONE: 1st WAXING

Any point of connection the pot makes to the kiln shelf, NEEDS to be waxed.

ie: bottom of the pot, the rim of the foot....

WAX the bottom of the foot, *and* an 1/8in up the sides.

ONLY use the two red & gold brushes in the pot by the wax.

If the brushes are too waxy, put soap in your hand to clean the wax off the brush.

***After students are done glazing, they need to wipe the bottom of the pot again/anyways with a

wet sponge to make sure there is no glaze.

Step TWO: GLAZING

Mix the glazes with stirring sticks by the sink. Do NOT leave them in the buckets!

Glazing the interior first. Pour glazing in when measuring cups, and pour it right out, don't let it sit too long and build up.

(If glaze SITS in the pot for too long, the water will continue to absorb into the bisque-ware, and the layer of glaze will get thicker and thicker...which is bad.)

There's not enough glaze in the buckets to dip, so we apply glaze on the exterior by painting it on, but **NOT paint! It's glaze...**

In this studio, we usually apply glaze to a bisqued pot by painting it onto the surface, using a brush...

One most likely will be applying a base coat to the piece by painting on the glaze systematically around the form, one layer at a time.

Depending on how thick the application, 2 or 3 coats is perfect.

If you scratched through the glaze to the surface of the pottery, the end result of the glaze application might be about 1/8" thick. (This may vary depending on glaze & experience.)

Once the base coat is applied, one can consider other applications of spontaneity or better, pre planning, to make their pot unique through the glaze process.

Sponging, taping, dripping, pouring, patterns...., scratching, stenciling, awesoming!

When a potter has finished glazing his/her piece, they will always sponge the bottom one last time.

-McCabe