

Ceramics: Occupational Health and Safety.

Rules about working safely with clay.

EQUIPMENT: What you will need



Clean water



plastic gloves or
disposable gloves



containers with lids that
seal properly



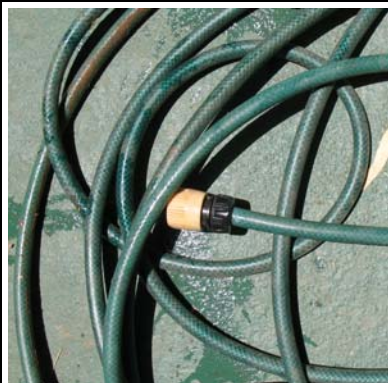
work apron, preferably
plastic



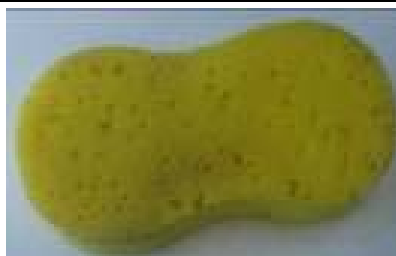
dust masks



vacumn cleaner



hose



clean sponge



Floor mop

Occupational Health and Safety

A plastic apron will wipe clean. If clay dries on a cloth apron, it will make clay dust every time you move. That is bad for your breathing.

If you are making glazes, wear a respirator. Check that the cartridge is for dust particles and change it according to specifications. Glaze materials can be very dangerous.

Always work with a clean container of water like a bucket, and a sponge and work towel. This will make cleaning up quick and easy.

If you are scratching or carving into clay, use a clean paint brush to brush dust away.

If mixing up your own glazes, you should be aware of any toxic properties in the ingredients you are using.

Your ceramic supplier should be able to give you written information about the materials you are purchasing. You can also look on the internet under toxic ceramic materials.

Only use a kiln that has been wired up by an electrician.

Always turn off the power before you open a kiln door.

Make sure the kiln is cool, (no hotter than 80 degrees Celsius) before you open the door.

Carefully remove any glaze spills off shelves or props that have been through a firing. They can cut like glass.

Do not touch a kiln when it is on. Be very careful to keep children away from a hot kiln.

Do not stay in the same area as a kiln when it is being fired. It can release poisonous gases.

Wear safety goggles to look through spy holes. They have green coloured glass.

Keep away from the kiln.

Use leather gloves to remove **kiln bungs**.

Keep children away from a kiln.

Glossary : words you need to understand

Dust mask a mask that helps stop you breathing in dust. It is usually made of paper.

Occupational Health and Safety with clay

Apron

Wear a work apron, preferably plastic, when working with clay, to keep your clothes clean.



Hair

Tie your hair back.



Mask

It is important to wear a dust mask if you are working with dry clay or glazes.

Work outside if you do not have an extractor booth.

Then any dry dust you make will stay in the room.



Wash hands

After working with clay, clay paints or glazes, wash your hands before you eat, drink or smoke.



Wipe up with damp cloth

After you have finished working with clay, wipe all work surfaces with clean water and sponges.



Clean tools

Wipe all tools and containers with clean water and clean sponges.



Clean the floors

Try not to drop clay on the floor while you work.

To clean the floor:

- Hose.
- Or, vacuum and then wet mop.

Do not dry sweep. If there is no vacuum, just wet mop.

