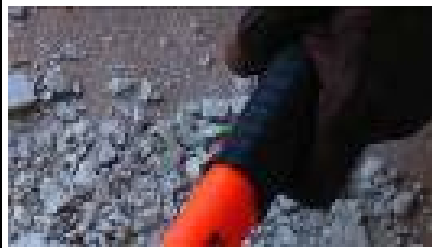


Ceramics: Reclaiming clay. A method for reclaiming clay.

EQUIPMENT: What you will need



bone dry clay



dust mask



plastic work apron



buckets



water



plaster slab or concrete
floor



Hammer

SAFETY: How to stay safe

Wear dust mask and apron.
Wear covered footwear.
Clean up with water, hose and sponge.

Glossary : Words you need to understand

Bone dry	Very dry clay that will no longer feel cool on touch. Like very dry bones that have been in the sun and have no moisture left.
Dust mask	Mask that helps stop you breathing in dust. Usually made of paper.

Reclaiming clay

Select a good workspace

Work outside on clean concrete.

Use a hammer or other tools to break the dry clay into pieces. Make them about the size of 5 cents or smaller.



Buckets and water

Half fill buckets with water.

Sprinkle clay into buckets.



Soak clay

Water should be half a hand deep over clay.

Soak until the clay is wet all through. Smaller pieces of clay soak up the water quicker.

This will take from overnight to a week.



Pour water off the top

Pour water off top. Spread wet clay out on plaster slab or clean concrete floor, about half a hand deep.



Turn clay

Turn clay over as it dries. Don't let it dry too much!

If it is drying too quickly on top, put plastic loosely over the top.

Try putting it into a shape. If it stays firm in that shape, it has dried out enough.



Wedge clay

Wedge the clay.



Seal clay in bags

Put the clay in strong airtight plastic bags. Make sure that no air will get in.

Store in cool place.



Wash tools and hands

Clean up all tools and equipment with damp sponge. Wipe down work apron. Clean clay off yourself too.



TIPS: Drying and storing

- Put a plastic sheet over if it is drying too fast on top.
- Do not dry it in the sun or in breezes.

The longer clay is stored after recycling, the more 'plastic' it will become (and easier to work with). Try and leave at least a few weeks.