

TIPS FOR FIRING CLAY & STACKING A KILN

Bisque Firing

(First fire)

- Make sure every piece of pottery is completely dry before firing. This may take a few days, so be prepared to wait!
- To load a kiln at this stage you can pack the kiln quite closely, even with pieces touching each other, as long as there's no glaze.
- The kiln must then be heated slowly up to about 600°C. This allows the water within the clay to be gradually evaporated. The kiln temperature can then be increased up to 1000°C. Keep in mind however, that the temperatures may vary depending on the clay.
- Once the firing is finished allow approximately a full day to cool down. Don't open the kiln until it has cooled to approximately 100°C.



Glaze Firing

- Unlike a bisque fire a glaze firing must be loaded carefully. Items must not touch each other and ideally there should be at least a 1.5cm gap surrounding each item.
- Glaze is generally not put on the underside of a particular item, as it will stick to the kiln shelf during firing. However, with the use of stilts earthenware pottery can have a glaze applied to the underside. The piece is then placed on the stilts and can be removed after firing.
- Glaze firing can be somewhat quicker than a bisque fire and is generally heated to approximately 1100°C for Earthenware and up to 1300°C for Stoneware items.
- The cooling down and removal methods for glaze firing are the same as for bisque.