

WELCOME MAKERS!

If you plan to leave your supplies at the studio, you will need a plastic container **with a lid** that is about the size of a shoebox to keep your clay & tools in. The lid is **necessary** so that they can be stacked on the shelves under the studio tables. Label your tools with your initials. Unmarked personal items and tools that are left out will be put in with the community tools.

Clay Exchange

Our clay exchange is applicable if you have clay that has dried out (i.e you had a pot flop on the wheel, you trimmed through the bottom, you took clay home and never used it, etc.) Once you get to 5 pounds of weight in clay, you are eligible to receive a 5 pound bag at **half price**. Once you get to 10 pounds, you are eligible for a 5 pound bag at **no cost**. We do **NOT** want and will **NOT** accept clay that is more wet than when you received it. **If the clay sticks to your hands it is too wet.** Please try to weigh in your clay in the beginning or at the end of class, not in the middle. There is a sheet on the chalkboard where we tally up weight in clay. If you are not active for 2 or more sessions, we will not continue to transfer your weigh-in clay and you will lose any amount of clay you have accumulated.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE JUST STARTING ON THE WHEEL :

- Individuals initially learning the wheel **FOR THEIR FIRST TIME**, you are entitled to **TWO WEEKS** of practice.
- For those **TWO WEEKS** of practice, you are welcome to come in during store hours. (10a-4p) **Closed on Thurs!**
- We will continuously give you clay. However, once you start saving pieces or once that **TWO WEEKS** is up, ***practice time is over and you need to pay for your clay.***
- This means that you are **NOT** permitted to come during store hours to start new projects.
- You are welcome to **CONTINUE** working on a project that you started in class. i.e, trimming or adding handles.
- If you would like more studio time in addition to what is offered in class, you are able to utilize drop in studio times in which currently enrolled students receive a discounted rate.

RULES AND THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- **PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE STUDIO SPACE** - Be sure to clean up your work area - this includes but is not limited to any and all tools you used, tables, wheels, bats, floors, shelves by wheels, walls, and the wooden ware boards.
- There are **no refunds** for missed classes or absences, you will receive only class credits.
- There is no limit to how many credits you can receive. If availability permits, you may use other class nights (Monday or Tuesday) as well as drop-in Sundays to make up a class. **Credits will ONLY be accepted during the current session and during the break before the following session starts. Your credits will expire once the next session begins.**
- There is to be **NO foreign clay bodies**, only use here what you have purchased or received here.
- When making pieces, keep both **thinness and thickness** in mind. Vessels really should be no more than 1-inch-thick in areas. Thick pieces can create issues during the firing process, on the other hand, very thin pieces can become fragile and can be easily broken. Try to keep a delicate and even balance. Solid pieces can and will explode in the kiln, not only breaking your piece, but causing damage to others as well.
- When it comes to pieces breaking, it's best to just recycle dried greenware and create a new piece. Repairing a dried piece can be a real hassle, and usually creates more problems than anything. Chances are, the next one will come out better anyway.
- There is a bin of tools that anyone in the class is welcome to use, we ask that you please be sure to clean and **return any borrowed items** so that other students are able to utilize them. If you're participating in a class, it's best to buy your own basic tool kit, not to rely on our community tools.
- If you want to continue working on a piece, put it on the rack that is covered with plastic – we spray that one down with water every so often so the pieces will not dry out. It helps if you spray it down and put a plastic bag over it as well. If you are completely done with a piece, put it on one of the racks with no cover so it can begin the drying process.
- Please gather your tools to take home at the end of a 6 week session, or when you pick up your finished pieces. Any tool boxes and/or finished pieces that are not claimed within 5 months will be disposed of or dispersed.

Limitations

- Each Student may have **up to 16 pieces per 6 week session**. If you go over this limit, a firing fee will be calculated and you will be charged accordingly. (height x width x .15 cents) Ex: 6in. x 5in. x .15 = \$4.50
- While we understand flat things are the easiest to make, they take up the most surface area in the kiln. Due to space limitations and the volume of student work, you are allowed **up to 3 large flat pieces** that exceed the size of our

setters (9x14x1). If you exceed the limit, you will be charged accordingly. (height x width x .60) Ex: 2in x 10in x .60 = \$12.00.

Different Stages of Clay:

Slip – sloppy and wet, can be used as pottery “glue”.

Wet/Plastic – fresh out of the bag, still able to be manipulated and sculpted without much breakage. The surface of the clay will easily take an impression and attaching is easy.

Leather Hard – Stage of the clay between plastic and bone-dry. Clay is still damp enough to join it to other pieces using slip. For example, this would be the stage handles are applied to mugs.

Bone-dry The final stage, completely air-dried, looks chalky and is ready to be fired. In this stage, the clay is very fragile, non-plastic and porous.

Greenware – Any unfired pottery. Wet, damp, leather-hard, bone-dry, can all be referred to as greenware. If soaked or exposed to water, it returns to the wet clay form.

Hand Building Terms:

Coil building – technique using the hands to roll out rope shaped lengths of clay.

Pinch building – technique using the fingers to gently pinch the clay in order to shape it, allows you to control thickness as well.

Slab building – technique using rolling pins to create “sheets” of clay which are cut out to form patterns and assembled into forms.

Wedging – method similar to kneading dough, prepares clay by forcing air bubbles out and evenly distributing particles to form a good working texture. (We make our stoneware and run it through a pugmill, so it comes to you de-aired. If you are recycling your own clay, wedging is required.)

Modeling – to give shape or form to, similar to sculpting. (applies to creating fantasy figures, animals, people, faces, etc.)

Throwing terms:

Bat – A flat disc that is used to throw on, goes on top of the wheel head. Bats make it easier to remove pieces from the wheel head as well.

Centering – technique to move clay into a symmetrical rotating axis in the middle of a wheel head so it can then be thrown. While the wheel is spinning, the piece should look nearly still, you should be able to feel when you are centered.

Shaping – Shaping is bringing the clay in or out to change the shape of the piece itself. People often mistake shaping for throwing.

Throwing – the act of actually bringing up a piece on the potter’s wheel, think of it as stacking tires. Four rotations of the wheel head should be made while applying equal pressure inside and out, before moving on to the next “tire”.

Trimming – the act of removing unnecessary excess clay from the bottom of a pot, done on the wheel while a piece is still leather hard.

Firing Terms:

Bisque – First firing cycle, after clay has been bisque fired it can no longer be reused or recycled.

Glaze firing – The second and final firing cycle, to the temperature at which the glaze materials will melt to form a glassy surface coating.

Kiln – A special furnace that reaches high temperatures used for firing clay products. Can be electric, gas, or wood fired. (Ours is gas, and fires up to 2,350 degrees Fahrenheit.)

Pyrometric Cone – Small ceramic pyramids formulated to melt at certain temperatures, measuring ceramic heat in the kiln. Ex: This is what we are referring to when we say, “We fire at cone 10.”

Shrinkage – the rate at which the clay body shrinks during both drying and firing. (Our stoneware has a 9% shrinkage rate.)

Other Basic Terms:

Banding Wheel – A revolving wheel head on a pedestal base that is turned by hand. Used for finishing or decorating pottery.

Glaze – Slow moving glass, applied after a bisque fire.

Wax resist – a wax coating applied to the bottom of a vessel so that the glaze will not run and stick to the kiln shelves.

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