



Tips for mixing your powdered Glaze

Clay Commune

Before you even contemplate starting to mix your powdered glaze, you must ensure that you are wearing all of the appropriate safety equipment that is required for mixing Powdered Glazes.

Powdered glaze when airborne can be harmful if breathed in.

You will need to wear a facemask whenever you are mixing powdered glazes, if you are doing your work at a studio they will have facemasks as well as the required sieves etc.

Mixing your glaze.

1. Place your glaze powder into your container and add your desired amount of water to the glaze powder. (The amount of water that you are wanting to add will depend a little on the glaze that you are using.)
2. Let the glaze sit in the water for a few minutes. You're wanting a specific gravity or around 1.45. (the greater the number the thicker the glaze & the lesser the number the thinner the glaze.)
3. Once your glaze has been soaking use a hand mixer (we purchased ours from Kmart they cost approximately \$10-\$15, some of you may also call these a bamix or immersion blender) and mix the glaze for approximately 3-5 minutes. (these are often called a bamix)
4. Once the glaze has been mixed well - usually we would sieve the glaze through a mesh sieve 80-120 mesh. If you are using an immersion blender / hand mixer / bamix etc you may get away with just blending. We do strongly recommend using a talisman sieve at the required mesh to sieve your final glaze.
5. Your glaze will be ready to use.
6. Make sure that you stir your glaze well prior to each dip/use as the glaze will quickly settle.

Please ensure that you do the following.

1. Clearly mark your container of Glaze with **a)** what color glaze it is **b)** what is the firing temp **c)** the code or product.
2. When securing your glaze (when you're finished glazing your pieces) make sure that the lid is air tight.

Tips

1. *Always test your glaze to ensure the glazefit on your designated piece. (example - if you intend glazing a pot that you have made from Keanes Stoneware 33 - Make a test tile from the same clay and do a test on that tile to ensure that the glaze is right for that particular type clay.)*
2. *When applying the glaze to your pieces - please stir your glaze between dips - this will ensure that the heavy particles are consistently throughout the glaze.*
3. *If you leave the lid off your glaze and it dries out - you can simply add more water and mix again (do not need to sieve) to get the right consistency.*
4. *If you add too much water and your glaze is too thin - simply leave the lid off your glaze for a day or two and allow the glaze to dehydrate a little - mix again and keep dehydrating until you get the right consistency.*
5. *Always remove any glaze from the bottom of your pieces - they cannot touch the kiln or kiln shelves as they will stick throughout the firing process - leave at least a 5 mm from the base of your piece.*
IMPORTANT *Sponge the soft powdery glaze off with water and a sponge*
6. Remember that your glaze has been formulated for a particular temperature and it should be fired at that temperature only

CAUTION: HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED OR INHALED.