

CERAMICS DEFINITIONS

ABSORBENCY- THE ABILITY OF A MATERIAL, CLAY, TO SOAK UP WATER.

BISQUE FIRE- FIRST FIRING AT LOWER TEMPERATURE TO MAKE POTS LESS FRAGILE
GLAZING; UNGLAZED; FIRED POTTERY.

CALIPER- A MEASURING TOOL FOR CHECKING SYMMETRY AND FITTING LIDS TO POTS.

CERAMIC- A CLAY OBJECT MADE INTO A PERMANENT SHAPE BY FIRING IN A KILN.

CRAZING- VERY FINE CRACKS WHICH APPEAR IN A GLAZE DUE TO IT NOT FITTING
THE BODY. UNEQUAL SHRINKING OF GLAZE AND BODY. USUALLY CAUSED
BY UNDERFIRED BISQUE.

BONE DRY- UNFIRED CLAY THAT IS FREE OF WATER, ONLY CONTAINS THE AMOUNT
OF MOISTURE IN ATMOSPHERE.

CLAY- A MOIST EARTH OF DECOMPOSED ROCK; USED IN PRODUCTS SUCH AS POTTERY,
BRICKS, TILES, AND SCULPTURE.

CLAY BODY- A MIXTURE OF TWO OR MORE CLAYS TO OBTAIN A DESIRED COLOR,
PLASTICITY, STRENGTH, OR FIRED DENSITY.

COILING- A METHOD OF CREATING POTS BY BUILDING BOTTOM AND WALLS WITH
EVEN, ROPELIKE COILS.

DECORATING WHEEL- A WHEEL THAT WILL TURN TO ALLOW FOR EASE IN DECORATING POTS.

FIRING- HEATING CERAMIC CLAYS AND GLAZES TO MATURITY.

GLAZE- A COATING OF GLASS WHICH IS FUSED TO THE SURFACE OF A CLAY BODY
DURING FIRING. IT SERVES TO PREVENT THE PENETRATION OF LIQUIDS, PRESENT
A GOOD WEARING, EASILY CLEANED SURFACE, AND DECORATE. CAN BE SHINY OR MATTE.

GREENWARE- UNFIRED, BUT DRIED CLAY PIECES.

KILN- A SPECIAL FURNACE THAT REACHES HIGH TEMPERATURES USED FOR FIRING CLAY PRODUCTS; ELECTRIC,
GAS, OR WOOD-FIRED.

KILN FURNITURE- SHELVES AND POSTS USED IN THE KILN FIRING CHAMBER TO ENABLE
LOADING PIECES ON MORE THAN ONE LEVEL.

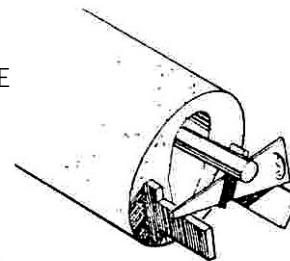
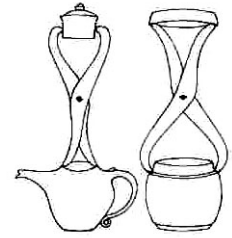
KILN SITTER- A MECHANICAL DEVICE THAT WILL SHUT THE KILN OFF WHEN A SMALL
PYROMETRIC CONE MATURES.

LEATHER HARD- THE DAMP BUT STIFFENED STAGE IN DRYING CLAY. HANDLES AND
OTHER ADDITIONS APPLIED AT THIS POINT.

LOOP TOOLS- TOOLS WITH RIBBONS OF WIRE FOR SHAPING AND TRIMMING CERAMIC OBJECTS.

MAUTRING POINT- TIME AND TEMPERATURE NEEDED TO COMPLETELY FIRE A GLAZE OR
CLAY OBJECT.

NONFUNCTIONAL- CREATED MAINLY FOR DECORATION RATHER THAN PRACTICAL USE.



PLASTICITY- THE QUALITY OF CLAY WHICH ALLOWS IT TO BE MANIPULATED, SHAPED MOLDED WITHOUT CRACKING OR CRUMBLING; WORKABILITY.

PINCHED METHOD- A METHOD OF MAKING POTTERY IN WHICH A BALL OF CLAY IS PRESSED, PULLED, AND PINCHED INTO A SHAPE WITH THE HANDS. THE THUMB IS USUALLY USED TO OPEN THE CENTER.

POTTER'S RIB- SHAPED PIECES OF WOOD OR METAL FOR SHAPING, SMOOTHING WET CLAY WHILE HAND BUILDING OR THROWING.

PYROMETRIC CONES- SMALL CERAMIC PYRAMIDS FORMULATED TO MELT AT SPECIFIC TEMPERATURES, USED TO MEASURE KILN HEAT.

SCORING- MAKING MARKS ON THE EDGES TO TWO PIECES OF CLAY BEFORE JOINING WITH SLIP.

SGRAFFITO- SCRATCHING DESIGNS ON POTTERY.

SLAB METHOD- A METHOD OF MAKING POTTERY IN WHICH A THICK, FLAT PLATE, OR SLICE, OF CLAY IS CUT INTO SHAPES WHICH ARE JOINED TO FORM AN OBJECT. THE JOINED EDGES ARE SCORED AND SLIP IS USED.

SLIP- CLAY DILUTED WITH WATER TO THE CONSISTENCY OF CREAM, USED FOR JOINING PIECES OF CLAY.

THROWING- CREATING VESSELS ON A POTTER'S WHEEL.

THERMAL SHOCK- BREAKAGE OF A CERAMIC PIECE CAUSED BY SUDDEN TEMPERATURE CHANGES.

UNDERGLAZE- COLORS THAT CAN BE PAINTED ON GREENWARE OR BISQUE THAT WILL SHOW THROUGH A CLEAR OVERGLAZE.

VISCOSITY- THE RELATIVE RUNNINESS OF A GLAZE.

VITRIFY- TO HARDEN; TURN TO STONE. A GLASSY, NON-POROUS STATE CAUSED BY HEAT OR FUSION.

WEDGING- TO FORCE AIR BUBBLES OUT AND ALIGN CLAY PARTICLES TO FORM A GOOD WORKING TEXTURE (WET CLAY). KNEADING MOIST CLAY.

WHEEL- FOR MAKING POTS; DRIVEN BY HAND, FOOT, OR ELECTRIC POWER.

