



Latest and Greatest

September – October 2010

Volume 1, Issue 1

Welcome to Stone Mountain Clay & Glaze Company's newest venture, a bi-monthly newsletter! Now you can easily stay up-to-date on every promotion, event and program involving SMC. Aimed at providing you with helpful tips and tricks, as well as updates on new products and services, each issue will also let you in on exclusive savings on our most fantastic glaze colors. So keep a close eye on your inbox—watch for the latest and greatest offerings from Stone Mountain Clay!

SMC Clay Tip:



Sometimes we get asked, "why do my pots keep blowing up in the bisque kiln?" Like our glaze tip (featured on the next page), this clay tip is all about drying. The answer, typically, is moisture. If there is any (yes-ANY) moisture still in your pot when it goes into the kiln—expect a blow up. As the kiln heats up that moisture, even if it

is a small amount, it turns into steam and has no way to escape the clay. Depending on where that moisture is in the piece—what happens next? KA-BOOM!

Patience is a virtue, and can also be the saving grace of your work. There are no rules as to how quickly clays will dry. Remember that drying times vary based on your clay body (darker clays typically dry slower), the thickness of your piece and your climate. Despite the temperature, humidity still causes pieces to dry considerably more slowly.

How can you tell if your piece is dry and ready to be fired? Look at the clay. If areas of the clay appear

What's new at SMC?

Our Top 5 newest products:

1. Decorating slips! You've probably heard the buzz about our **Black Raven** and **Schoolhouse Red Brick** slips. Fantastic to add color, depth and dimension to your work—these ready-to-use slips can fire up to Cone 10 in electric, reduction, salt and wood. They can be used on a variety of clay bodies and applied directly to leatherhard work. The slips are sold in a consistency that is perfect for inlay, scraffito and brushed designs.

2. **Mediterranean Sea Salt glaze (#415)**. This sea-blue glaze breaks, mottles and adapts to the surface texture of your piece with stunning results. Easy-to-apply, this gorgeous glaze likes a little variation in its thickness—so a perfect application is not necessary!



3. **Onyx Krunch (335)**, our new black stoneware. This one-of-a-kind body has the color, depth and unique look of our **Black Raven**, but with a little more texture. This body is ideal for larger thrown and handbuilt pieces, and hold its shape for wide slabs, over-sized extrusions and large platters with ease.

4. Try a wide variety of SMC glazes with our new **cone 6 glaze sample packs**. Offered in convenient 4 oz. sizes, these wonderful assortments will help introduce you to an array of new colors. The sample packs are available in 8- or 10-count sizes. Purchase one of our suggested kits or build-your-own!

5. We've got some exciting new **SMC gear** in stock! Get yours today—at only \$10 for shirts or totes and \$12 for hats, they won't last long! *More styles coming soon...*

darker (especially thicker areas), the clay is probably still wet. If the bottom of the pot feels cooler to the touch than the rest of the clay, your piece is probably still wet. If you aren't sure if the piece is dry—please wait. We never recommend "rushing" clay to dry, slow drying can help prevent other pesky problems like warping and cracking (especially around attachments). A few extra days before firing will still be less of a delay than if you have to recreate your work because it has exploded!

SMC Glazing Tip:

Have you ever opened the glaze kiln to find out that your glaze has "crawled" (moved) away from the rim or another area of your pot? Not only is this unattractive, but a bare spot in the wrong place can affect whether or not your piece is food-safe. While clay and glaze agreement can sometimes be the issue, there are two more common causes for this problem.

The cause can be a glaze layer that is way too thick. Remember, your overall glaze application thickness should be approximately that of a matchbook cover. If the glaze is too thick, it can move too much during firing and pull away from the clay. Really thick glaze will also have trouble drying properly, and may not adhere properly to the clay surface.

The other common cause of crawling is over-saturation. When applying glaze, be sure that you allow plenty of drying time between coats. Dry to the touch does not always mean completely dry. If areas of your glaze look darker, or if exposed areas of clay feel cold-your piece may have too much moisture. Often you can tell if the piece is too wet if the glaze refuses to stick around the rim, no matter how much glaze you seem to apply. If this is the case, place the pot in front of a fan and give it some extra time to dry before adding more glaze.

Remember-humidity is not your friend! When it is really humid outside, or your heat/air-conditioning are not on, it can dramatically impact your glaze drying time. Slowing down your application and spacing out coats will often make the glaze adhere more evenly-resulting in a more consistent, and beautiful, finish for your piece.



On the web

If you haven't visited our website yet, be sure to do so. We've worked hard trying to bring you detailed pictures, informative product descriptions and helpful tips. Our Help Center is geared toward taking the guesswork out of your common firing, shipping and drying challenges (and many other topics). On the glaze page, you'll notice a new [Dynamic Duos](#) link-giving you new shots of layered glazes on a variety of SMC clays. We want to answer your questions and help you before you need it, so your pots will come out beautifully the first time-and every time. The site is continuously being updated, so come back often!

Featured Glaze... Ginger Mist (414)



This beautifully-sheer, cone 6 glaze easily highlights texture on any piece. With a healthy dose of speckles and an even gloss, it adds character and dimension to the finish of any piece. Beautiful when used all by itself, Ginger Mist dramatically accents and modifies other glazes-especially ones that are flat and/or opaque. Ginger Mist works exceptionally well over many other colors, including our Olive Serpentine, Sapphire and Periwinkle glazes. Ginger Mist is food-safe (when used properly), and gorgeous in both oxidation and reduction.

Now through October 31, shop at SMC and mention the code "**SMC1010**" to receive **20% off** the purchase price of any pints or gallon buckets of Ginger Mist glaze (3-gallon buckets and dry mixes are 10% off). This offer is good for both walk-in and shipped orders. Try Ginger Mist today!



Ginger Mist layered over Olive Serpentine (474).

Don't miss us at the Western North Carolina Pottery Festival on Saturday, November 6. We will be in Dillsboro for the weekend, enjoying demonstrations, exhibitions and the Pottery Olympics!

**Please note: Stone Mountain Clay & Glaze Company will be closing early on Friday, November 5, and will be closed on Saturday, November 6. We apologize for any inconvenience.*

Coming Soon...

A ready-to-use grolleg Porcelain decorating slip, SMC underglazes and an exciting new stoneware!

