

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE CERAMICS STUDIO

Be aware of certain hazards in the ceramic studio and follow these guidelines so that you may have a long and healthful life working with clay.

- **WEAR THIN PLASTIC GLOVES:** To prevent materials from absorbing into skin cuts and pores, and to prevent allergic reactions to materials when mixing clay or glaze materials by hand.
- **WEAR A DUST MASK:** To prevent inhalation of fine materials when mixing dry clay or glaze materials, when spraying glaze, and when clearing areas with dry clay or glaze materials.
- **WEAR AN OSHA-APPROVED RESPIRATOR:** Whenever you are handling toxic materials, when you are in the presence of toxic vapors, and when spraying glaze materials extensively.
- **CLAY DUST:** Dry clay dust is injurious when inhaled over a long period of time. Do not ever sweep up clay particles in the presence of others. Use a damp sponge to clean off table surfaces and floors.
- **KILN VAPORS:** Vapors from the kiln are harmful if inhaled over a long period of time. Do not remain in their general vicinity any longer than necessary. Luster vapors are particularly toxic. Luster firings may be done only at night in order to minimize exposure.
- **GLAZING FOOD CONTAINERS:** Use only food-safe glazes fired to their recommended temperature on appropriate clay bodies. Do not ever use glazes containing lead on food containers. Use barium glazes on exterior surfaces if at all.
- **DO NOT EAT OR DRINK WHILE GLAZING.**

SOME TOXIC MATERIALS FOUND IN THE CERAMICS STUDIO:

BARIUM
BORIC ACID
BORAX
LITHIUM CARBONATE
PEARL ASH
COLORANTS
CADMIUM
CHROMIUM
MAGNESIUM DIOXIDE

* PLEASE ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR IF YOU HAVE HEALTH AND SAFETY QUESTIONS