



Clay Firing Issues

Underfired Clay

- Dry and rough with sandpaper like surface.
- Potentially unsolidified.

Overfired Clay

- Warping or sagging: The clay body may warp or sag under the intense heat of the kiln, causing it to lose its shape and form.
- Bloated or distorted appearance: Over firing can cause trapped air pockets or water to expand and create bloated or distorted shapes on the surface of the clay.
- Cracking: The clay body may crack due to thermal expansion and contraction as it cools down.
- Loss of color: Over firing can cause the glaze or clay to lose its intended color, resulting in a dull or muted appearance.
- Glossy or shiny appearance: The clay body may develop a glossy or shiny appearance due to melting or glaze over-melt.
- Melting: Over firing can cause the clay body to melt and fuse together, making it impossible to separate individual pieces.

These effects will vary depending on the type of clay, the firing temperature, and other factors such as the kiln atmosphere and cooling rate.

Glaze Underfired

- Dry scratchy glaze surface. Pots that have been underfired can be fired again to a higher temperature, which may salvage the glaze.

Glaze Overfired

- Glaze runs. The glaze coat may be thinner at the top of the pot and thicker at the bottom. Glaze may even run off the pot and drip onto the kiln shelf or other pots.
- Seriously overfired pots may show pinholing and pitting as the glaze reaches evaporation temperature.