

# Kiln Lid Dust

Once the bricks on your kiln lid start to drop dust, they will continue to drop it until they either fall right out or they are replaced. Many people have had to replace their kiln lid because they couldn't get their kiln lid to stop dropping dust into their glass. Some degree of "dusting " is inevitable with age but there are some things that will cause it to happen prematurely and extensively.

## Crash cooling

Opening the kiln lid at top temperature WILL cause premature brick damage. I won't make the slightest effort here to be tactful or diplomatic with those that claim it doesn't happen. Bunk! They have not the faintest idea what they're talking about. Nothing is more likely to cause kiln lid damage quicker then shocking hot lid bricks with room temperature air. Here's an example of the kind of damage that can occur from crash cooling:



## Dropping the lid.

Some kiln lids are heavy and it takes some control to ease it down gently so it doesn't smack down when you close it. If you have a large kiln with a heavy lid, you might consider buying or fabricating a lift assist device to allow you to lower it gently.

To minimize dusting, routinely vacuum inside your kiln - especially in the element grooves. If your kiln lid has started to dust, there are refractory paints that will help control it. Carefully brush away any loose material around the element groves and paint the compound over the entire lid. It works best if you remove the lid from the kiln so you can apply the material with the lid flat and stable. As your kiln ages, the elements will begin to sag. Both the side and the top elements. Buy some element pins. The U kind are better then the J kind. Wherever the element has begin to protrude, place 2 pins at right angles to each other (pressed in on a 45 deg angle) to hold it in.