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Beginner lessons for Firing

Master the Art of Firing Your Pottery!

DEFINITION

> Firing is the process of heating clay in a kiln to transform it into durable pottery. This step is crucial for achieving the desired hardness and finish of the ceramic piece.

KEY CONCEPTS

Bisque Firing

The first firing that hardens the clay but leaves it porous for glazing.

Glaze Firing

The second firing that melts the glaze, creating a glassy finish on the pottery.

Kiln Types

Different kilns, like electric or gas, affect the firing process and results.

Temperature Ranges

Firing temperatures vary based on clay and glaze types, typically measured in Cone ratings.

Cooling Process

Slow cooling is essential to prevent cracks and ensure the integrity of the pottery.

EXAMPLES

→ Firing a bowl at Cone 6 for a stoneware finish.

→ Using a gas kiln for a reduction firing effect.

→ Applying a clear glaze before the glaze firing.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember 'Bisque before Glaze' to sequence your firings correctly.

★ Think of 'Kiln = Heat' to recall the purpose of the kiln.

★ Use 'Cool Down' to remember the importance of the cooling process.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Skipping bisque firing and glazing directly on raw clay.

✗ Not checking kiln temperature settings before firing.

✗ Cooling too quickly, leading to cracks in the pottery.

QUICK RECAP

Firing is essential for transforming clay into durable pottery through controlled heat. Remember to bisque fire first, then glaze fire, and allow for proper cooling to avoid cracks.