



STONEWARE FAQ

Q: Does it cost more to offer stoneware?

A: A stoneware program is a small investment that gives you another kiln fired product. However, due to the different clay body and firing temperature, stoneware bisque costs a little more than earthenware bisque. With the proper pricing structure, you can provide a new cost-effective, profitable, kiln-fired product that is both dishwasher and microwave safe and can withstand regular use for your customers.

Q: Since stoneware fires hotter will it shorten the life of my heating elements?

A: The additional heat work that is required to complete a stoneware glaze firing will shorten the life of the elements and thermocouple but we cannot give an exact amount. This equipment investment will be worth the additional sales and increased profit that stoneware provides. Factor the cost in your cost of doing business.

Q: How do I promote stoneware without devaluing earthenware?

A: An easy way to explain to customers is to consider earthenware as hand painted art or fine china. Typically, earthenware is painted with bright colors and design work. It needs to be hand-washed and cherished. Stoneware is durable tableware for regular/every day use. It is glazed with warm, organic colors.

Q: I want to make my own combo tiles. Do you sell stoneware chips?

A: Yes, you can order a box of 30 unglazed, round, stoneware tiles from your favorite Mayco Distributor. The item number is MP-010E.



Q: Can I use Stroke & Coat™ with Stoneware glazes?

A: Yes. Stroke and Coat® glazes used in combination with Stoneware glazes can add an intense splash of color. Many Stroke & Coat™ colors will maintain their original color value at higher firing temperatures.

Q: How do I know what Stroke & Coat™ glazes will look like at cone 6?

A: There are many places to find the cone 6 fired results of our low fire products. The back of the Mayco Color Catalog, the label on each Stroke & Coat™ bottle, chip charts with cone 06 & 6 firings, and Mayco's website, www.maycocolors.com, features galleries with cone 6 results.

Q: My customer glazed the bottom of the stoneware. What do I do?

A: Use a damp sponge and remove the glaze to the best of your ability. Any glaze on the bottom of a piece will cause it to stick to the shelf. For future projects, you may want to create a no-glaze line on the bottom of the ware or add a wax line to remind the customer to not paint the bottom or below the line.

Q: The stoneware glaze ran onto my kiln shelf. How do I fix this?

A: Remove the stuck-on glaze by either sanding, chipping or both. Then prep the kiln shelf with Mayco's Kiln Wash (AC-001). This pint jar of pre-mixed kiln wash will restore chipped and damaged kiln shelves as well as protect against ware sticking to the kiln shelves. See Mayco's website for more product information. It is best to kiln wash all shelves prior to implementing stoneware in your studio.

Q: My customer did not glaze all of the stoneware. What do I do?

A: It is recommended to glaze or clear glaze the areas that come into contact with food. Areas such as the bottom of stoneware should not be glazed as it is dry foot in the kiln. Sides that will not come into contact with food may be left natural.

STONEWARE FAQ

Q: *Can I silkscreen over stoneware glazes?*

A: We recommend applying your silkscreen directly to the bisque to preserve the crisp detail of the silkscreen. Keep in mind, applying design work to stoneware bisque greatly depends on the stability of the glaze that you do the design work with and the glaze that you apply to the surface of the bisque.

Q: *Which glaze is best to use for silkscreening on stoneware?*

A: For crisp lines the following glazes are recommended: Designer Liner, Fundamentals Underglaze, or a Stoneware Wash (SW-301, SW-302, and SW-305 are stable. SW-303 and SW-304 will move). The particular glaze and how heavy that glaze is applied on top of the design will affect if and how much the design will blur.

Q: *How do I handle stoneware on a walk-in basis?*

A: Keeping your stoneware pieces and glazes separated from your earthenware pieces and glazes is a great way to avoid any confusion in your studio (luckily they are both clearly labeled!). Be sure your staff is well trained on the differences between the two products and firing needs. You may want to set up a dedicated stoneware section in the back room to avoid any mix ups with glazing and/or firing of the pieces. Displaying the stoneware samples and chips in a separate section of the studio with a sign stating, "*Stoneware - Ask Us How!*". Create a introduction on the proper glazing techniques, just as you did for earthenware and be sure your staff knows it well if questions arise.

Also, offering classes is a great way to train your customers and your staff about stoneware products in a controlled environment. Classes also allow you to schedule firing a kiln load of stoneware projects.