



Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)

Air Quality

The nature of working with clay means that there will be dust and mould¹ in the air. Prompt and proper attention to keeping ALL work areas clean, including shelves will improve our air quality.

Cleaning up

All potters are responsible for prompt cleaning of all their work areas. If we each leave our workspace neater and cleaner than we found it, the studio will be better off for all of us. It is NOT the instructor's job or other studio potters' responsibility to clean up after you.

All of the ceramic materials that we use while working with clay and glazes create silica dust. Chronic exposure to silica dust by inhalation can cause silicosis, a lung disease which is irreversible.

- No dry sanding indoors - dry scraping, grinding should take place outdoors. Make sure your work is as smooth as is necessary to you BEFORE it dries.
- Trimming bone-dry green ware also creates dust. Trim while your work is leather-hard.
- Use only wet methods to clean in the studio – use a wet sponge and mop to clean up.
- Wedging table should be scraped with a non-metal rib and sponged after use.
- Clean clay and glaze from tools and hands

¹<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/q-a-mold-reactions-to-clay-3976330>

Different types of mold can grow on different types of clay if left for an extended time. Green mold can be beneficial as it can add moisture and plasticity to the clays. The mold often burns off in the kiln.

Exposure

Ceramic materials can enter the body in three ways:

1. Inhalation: breathing in the material
2. Ingestion: swallowing the material
3. Absorption: the material passes through the skin or eyes

Preventing Exposure

1. Inhalation: Wear a respirator. Dust masks may not be as effective.
 - Wear a respirator while mixing new glazes or mixing clay
 - Don't breathe kiln gases or fumes
 - Keep fan ON when electric kilns are firing or cooling
 - Don't linger in the kiln room when kilns are firing or cooling
2. Ingestion: No food or drink in the studio
 - Do not eat or drink while working with raw glaze materials.
 - Do not eat or drink while glazing or working with colored slips.
 - Cover all drinks.
3. Absorption: Wear gloves
 - Don't allow ceramic oxides to get on your bare skin. Use latex or rubber gloves when working with:
 - Clay that has stains or toxic colorants added to it
 - Washes with toxic colorants.
 - Slips with toxic colorants
 - Any glaze.
 - Glaze materials (when weighing materials in preparation for mixing glazes)
 - Wear a respirator and latex/vinyl gloves with a fan blowing the dust outside when weighing out raw material and making.

Prevention is YOUR responsibility!

Ceramics materials are potentially dangerous

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for materials used in the Almonte Potters Guild studio can be found in the red binder located in the backroom.

What is a Safety Data Sheet?

Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) are summary documents that:

- provide information about the hazards of a product and advice about safety precautions,
- are usually written by the manufacturer or supplier of the product,
- provide more detailed hazard information about the product than the label,
- are an important resource for workplaces and workers to help you learn more about the product(s) used,
- identify the hazards of the products you use and to protect yourself from those hazards, including safe handling and emergency measures, and
- tell users what the hazards of the product are, how to use the product safely, what to expect if the recommendations are not followed, how to recognize symptoms of exposure, and what to do if emergencies occur.

For information specific to the raw materials used at the APG studio, please refer to the [Safety Data Sheets](#) found here:

- <https://psh.ca/pages/sdss>
- <https://uwaterloo.ca/fine-arts/resources-services/facilities-and-equipment/ceramics/ceramics-material-safety-data-sheets-msds>
- <https://www.maycocolors.com/resources/safety-data-sheets/>
- <https://www.amaco.com/sds>
- <https://www.masoncolor.com/safety-data-sheets>

Health and Safety at the Almonte Potters Guild
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APG Glazes

1. ARROWMONT
Nepheline Syenite
Silica 400
EPK
Whiting
Gerstley Borate
Lithium Carbonate
Cobalt Carbonate
Titanium Dioxide
Bentonite

2. CHUN SEAFOAM
Silica 400
Whiting
Kaolin
Zinc Oxide
Copper Carbonate
Titanium Dioxide
Bentonite

3. CRYSTAL CLEAR
EPK
Minspar200
Silica 400
Wollastonite
Ferro Frit 3134
OM #4 Ball Clay

4. FALLS CREEK SHINO
Gerstley Borate
G200 (Custer Feldspar)
Alberta Slip
Silica
Super Pax
Tin Oxide

5. GLOSSY CLEAR
EPK
Silica

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Frit 3134

6. JUNE PERRY'S RED

Silica 400
Gerstley Borate
Whiting
Nepheline Syenite
Kaolin
Bentonite
Tin Oxide
Chrome Oxide
Cobalt Carbonate

7. LORD JIM

G200 (Custer Feldspar)
Silica 400
Whiting
Kaolin
Zinc Oxide
Titanium Dioxide
Bentonite

8. MAJOLICA

EPK
Silica
Whiting
Nepheline Syenite
FRIT 3134
Super Pax

9. SAPPHIRE BLUE

Rutile
Lithium Carbonate
Red Iron Oxide
Cobalt Oxide
Crystal Clear glaze

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10. SEA SERPENT

G200 (Custer Feldspar)

Gerstley Borate

Silica

Kaolin

Whiting

Talc

Tin Oxide

Copper Carbonate

Cobalt Carbonate

Bright Yellow Stain

11. SEA WHISPER

Ferro Frit 3134

Wollastonite

EPK

Sea Serpent glaze

12. STRINGY BLUE

G200 (Custer Feldspar)

Gerstley Borate

Silica

Whiting

Talc

Kaolin

Zinc Oxide

Copper Carbonate

Cobalt Carbonate

Manganese Dioxide

13. TEADUST

G200 (Custer Feldspar)

EPK

Silica

Whiting

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Copper Carbonate
Cobalt Carbonate
Black Iron Oxide
Manganese Dioxide

14. VARIGATED BLUE

Ferro Frit 3195
Wollastonite
Nepheline Syenite
EPK
Silica
Copper Carbonate
Cobalt Carbonate
Red Iron Oxide
Rutile

15. WATERFALL BROWN

Ferro Frit 3134
Ferro Frit 3195
OM 4 Ball
Silica
Red Iron Oxide
Rutile

SUPER KILN WASH

Zincropax
Calcined Alumina
Detol
Laguna Gum Solution

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1	ALBANY SLIP SUBSTITUTE	28	LITHIUM CARBONATE
2	BONE ASH	29	MAGNESIUM CARBONATE
3	BORAX	30	MAGNESIUM ZIRCONIUM SILICATE
4	BORAX ANHYDROUS	31	MANGANESE DIOXIDE
5	CALCINED KAOLIN	32	MINS PAR 200 aka FELDSPAR SODA
6	CHROME OXIDE	33	NC FELDSPAR
7	COBALT CARBONATE	34	NICKEL OXIDE
8	COBALT OXIDE	35	NEPHELINE SYENITE (MINEX)
9	COLEMANITE	36	NICKEL CARBONATE
10	COPPER CARBONATE	37	OLD MINE 4 BALL CLAY
11	COPPER OXIDE BLACK	38	PHOSPHOROUS PENTOXIDE
12	COPPER SULPHATE	39	REDART CLAY
13	CUSTER FELDSPAR aka POTASH	40	RUTILE -ceramic grade
14	DOLOMITE	41	RUTILE - granulous
15	EPK KAOLIN	42	SILICA
16	FRIT 3124	43	SILICON CARBIDE
17	FRIT 3134	44	SODA ASH
18	FRIT 3195	45	SPODUMENE
19	FRIT 3269	46	STRONTIUM CARBONATE
20	GERSTLEY BORATE	47	TALC
21	GILLESPIE BORATE	48	TIN OXIDE
22	GROLLEG KAOLIN	49	TITANIUM DIOXIDE
23	GUM	50	WHITING
24	IRON OXIDE BLACK	51	WOLLASTONITE
25	IRON OXIDE RED	52	ZINC OXIDE
26	IRON OXIDE YELLOW (OCHRE)	53	ZICRONIUM SILICATE
27	KONA SODA FELDSPAR	54	WAX RESIST