

Congratulations on getting The Pottery Studio Take Away Clay Kit!

You can now make objects out of clay, decorate them with underglaze colours and return your creation for glazing and firing in our Studio kilns.

This kit includes:

1 kg of stoneware clay
underglaze colours
2 paint brushes
A needle tool
2 sculpting tools
A pottery sponge

How to make clay objects?

You can **roll** a lump of clay like pastry, pasta, dumplings or tortillas dough to make

- small plates
- cups, mugs or plant pots by wrapping your slab of clay around a shape that you like (it can be any household object such as a cardboard tube, a milk carton, a tumbler, a yoghurt pot).

To roll the clay, use a rolling pin, a bottle or a piece of dowel or other form of tube.

To join 2 pieces of clay together (or 2 edges of a slab rolled into a cylinder), you need to score the 2 sides with a needle or a scratchy object like a fork, and cover the scored parts with **slip***

Once you have brought the 2 sides together, you can smooth out the surface of the clay and blend the excess slip using the edge of a credit card or an ice cream stick.

You would do the same to stick a circle of clay onto the end of a cylinder to make the base of a pot.

Remember to tightly wrap your original object in cling film or newspaper before wrapping the clay slab onto it so that you can separate the two before the clay starts drying out and shrinks (and cracks!).

You can also make **clay sculptures by pinching** your clay into all sorts of shapes with your fingers and any tool you can imagine. The kit contains a couple of shaping tools but skewers, knives, sticks, pencils will work too.

If your object is thick, make sure you poke holes with a needle (or a safety pin, or a tooth pick) through the thick parts to prevent it from exploding when it is fired.

If you are making a ball shape, you may want to consider making it out of a **pinch pot** so that the centre of the ball is hollow (and your object is lighter). Pierce a hole inside the ball to let the air out once you have finished your piece. This way, your object won't explode either!

Underglaze can be used like poster paint. You can mix the colours together and water them down for a thinner effect.

Once fired and glazed, the colours become more intense and vibrant.

If you want solid colours, you will need to apply several coats, leaving each coat to dry before you add the next.

Note that the clay you are using, which is dark grey in its wet form, becomes off white once fired. It will be the colour of your finished piece if you don't colour it with underglaze. It can be quite nice too.

It will be shiny either way as we glaze all your work to make it waterproof and food safe.

It is useful to add **your initials** or another form of mark on your pot for future identification. You can carve it into the clay when it is still wet.

Take a photo of your finished piece before returning it for your record.

It is ready to be returned once the underglaze has dried.

Wrap it carefully for transport and bring it back to us for firing.

We will let you know when your work is ready for collection, generally, 3 to 4 weeks after delivery.

Have a play! It's a lot of fun!

If you don't like what you made, you can start again (before your paint).

Just squish your clay back into a ball, rewet it and have another go.

Thank you for filling in the form below and returning it with your work.

***slip:** to make slip, mix a bit of your wet clay with water. You can add a few drops of white vinegar to make the slip even stickier. Slip is like glue for your clay.

Once the surface of your work has dried and feels a bit stiff and not so sticky and wobbly anymore, you can start decorating with underglaze. This can be immediately after making your object (you can speed the drying process with a hair dryer but don't overdo it. A couple of minutes should be enough. If the clay starts changing colour and turns greyish, it is too dry). If you want to leave the decorating for another day, you can keep your clay moist by wrapping it with cling film.

Name:

Date:

Email address and/or Cell #:

What I made:

White

Yellow

Orange

Red

Turquoise

Dark Green

Black