

Ceramic Safety Plan

Listed by room

Main Studio

Clay Dust

- Clay dust is the main problem in this room.
- Students should pick up fallen clay immediately with a wet sponge to prevent it from being walked on and getting dispersed in the air.
- Spilled glaze should also be cleaned immediately for the same reason.
- Constant cleaning with a wet sponge after usage of the entire area would be very helpful in controlling clay dust in the air.
- Wheel work or non wheel work during the winter can produce extremely dry skin so wear gloves if necessary; use skin cream; rest wrists.
- Wet mop clay; never dry sweep; finish green ware while damp. Always use wet sponge for cleaning and never use dry sweeping at any time.

Glaze Room

Chemicals

- Glaze chemicals are labeled as to appropriate usage and protection.
- Glaze chemicals should be picked up from the floor immediately to prevent the chemical from floating in the air.
- Students are informed of safety standards of using disposable gloves and mask. These standards would mean that gloves and mask should be worn at all times. In addition it is highly recommended that safety glasses are worn at all times. In addition information on chemical spilling and how to pick up the spill along with how to examine dangers by reading chemical container listing each time they first use the chemicals. Each chemical will have different standards and can be identified by the container label specifications for protection. Labels may indicate MSDS forms for each chemical being used is examined along with the label on each chemical container to be aware of hazards

- and protection required before use of any chemical. All MSDS forms are located at the exit door area in a large blue folder next to the door.
- Strict use of appropriate protection as listed on chemical container is required during all glaze preparation is mandatory. All containers have visual markers on the label indicating safety glass use, rubber glove use and mask use. Rubber gloves should not be taken off and at no time can any spills be left on the table or shelf. Never clean spills with dry brushing techniques since wet sponge applications work in a far superior fashion to keep the chemicals from becoming air-borne. This is true for all chemicals in the glaze room. When finished using this room all the surface should be cleaned with a wet sponge never dry sweeping or cleaning.
 - Lead or any glaze containing lead is not allowed in the ceramics area.
 - No eating, drinking in this room.

Clay Storage Room

Chemicals and clays

- The main purpose of this room is to store clay and some large bags of chemicals.
- If chemical bags are dumped into glaze room containers it should be done in the ceramic patio area.
- Chemical MSDS forms should be consulted previous to any use of dry clay or chemicals located in this room.
- All work done in this room will follow MSDS specified precautions as listed.
- No eating or drinking in this room.

Kiln Room

Loading and unloading kilns

- Students in advanced classes can be trained to fire, load and unload kilns in this room.
- Students should wear eye protection and have shoes and long pants. cloth gloves are available and required during all work.
- Kiln firing produces chlorine, fluorine, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and ozone and are highly toxic. An awareness of ventilation of

- the kiln room kilns will be demonstrated and are to be monitored on a constant basis to assure proper functioning of the equipment.
- Kilns cause burns, so wear gloves during all contact. A carbon monoxide detector is installed in appropriate locations in the kiln room to monitor CO₂ levels. The location is next to the entrance door for the glaze room. If levels of CO₂ exceed limits it will make a high pitched sound and at that point all students should exit the area and alert the instructor or the facilities management at NEIU, ext.5240.
 - Wear infrared goggles or hand-held welding shields (1.7-3.0 shade) if you are looking into the peep hole of a high fired cone 10 kiln during firing.
 - Electric Kilns produce toxic gases and should be vented directly to exterior of building. Each electric kiln should be attached to an internal exhaust system and vented outside.
 - Heat can cause fires, even 1 ft. away; don't store combustible materials nearby; place kiln away from floor, wall; have 2 shutoffs and 3 feet minimum between kilns and any wood product or cart.
 - All students should be aware of public safety number (4100) to call in emergency as well as the location of fire extinguishers in all the rooms of the ceramics area.
 - No eating or drinking in this room.

Patio Area

Firing procedure and prevention of injury

- Students can use this area for a multitude of activities. In general, it is used for Raku firing of student work.
- Students will be required to wear appropriate protections such as; gloves, shoes, long pants, tightly closed shirts and face masks. Long hair should be secured with a hat or some other fashion to prevent injury. Additional demonstrations will be given on operating the 2 safety switches and ignition of the Raku kiln. These safety switches are located next to the glaze room entrance and to the right of the patio exit door. These switches should be turned on for use and off when finished. Students should keep a distance from the kiln during firing of at least 3 feet. Upon completion of the kiln firing students will unload work and put into sawdust to produce the desired results unique to

Raku firing. The unloading method is to wear an apron, face protection and hand protection to place work in sawdust barrel. Each student will be doing this except for anyone who feels unsure about the technique.

- Students can learn to fire during class time only or at other times where they have help and supervision from the instructor.
- The reduction cycle of firing where work is put into a sawdust container and smoke is produced should be done as far away from air intakes of buildings or open windows as possible. This is essential since the facilities are equipped with fire monitors that could go off. Don't use materials treated with preservatives or pesticides. No plastics or artificial material of any kind.
- Cleaning and proper closing down of the Raku facility will be covered to protect equipment and tools.