

Clay Workshop Resources

Building In Three Dimensions



Clay Terms for the Classroom



Handbuilding: A general term that means the process of making pottery and ceramic sculptures by hand, rather than on a potter's wheel. Usually refers to pinch, coil and slab building methods.



Coil: A long roll of clay that has been formed by hand. It should look like a snake.

Coiling: A handbuilding method that uses many coils to build walls, handles, etc. The coils are smoothed together to form a sturdy structure.



Pinch or pinching: The handbuilding method of squeezing clay between your thumb and fingers to form a pot or sculpture.



Scoring: A method for attaching two pieces of clay by scratching the areas where they attach, applying slip, then smoothing and sealing edges.



Slab: A handbuilding method that uses flat, even pieces of clay about ½ inch thick that are formed with a rolling pin.



Slip: A mixture of clay and water. It is used like glue as part of the scoring process. Can also be used for decorating.



Wedging: The process of removing trapped air inside the clay by throwing a ball of clay on the table about 20 times. You can also wedge with the same movement as kneading bread dough. Clay straight out of the bag does not need to be wedged. You will do this when you reclaim leftover scraps of clay. Keep scraps well hydrated to make this process easier.



Drying: The natural removal of moisture from a project by the air. If you don't dry your project long enough before firing, it may crack or explode in the kiln.

Greenware: Any unfired project that is leather hard or bone dry.

Bisque-firing: The first firing in a kiln at a low temperature (usually cone 08 to 04). This is how bisqueware is made.

Bisqueware: fired in the kiln one time, ready for glaze.

Images from [Google.com/Images](https://www.google.com/images)

Terms from *Kids 'N' Clay Ceramics Book*

Julie Perrine's Classroom Materials List

Clay program supply recommendations:

KCDA is a Purchasing co-op and a great resource for art supplies, most importantly, clay. If your office manager is not familiar with them, you can find them on line at KCDA.org or call for information at 425-251-8115. The Edmonds School District is part of this co-op. The best thing about ordering clay through KCDA, they deliver for free.

I suggest you go to [Seattle Pottery Supply](#) to buy glaze. If there is enough funding, go for the pint sized bottles, I mark the month and year on the bottle in sharpie. This will help you determine the most popular colors.

I like to work on craft foam as a mat. 12" x 18" provides a great workspace, smaller pieces can work just as well. Clay can get stuck on surfaces while working, when you use this foam mat, you can lift it up and pull the foam away from the stuck piece. I find that cutting small squares of newspaper to work on is a great idea so that students can move the paper around to see all sides, rather than pick the piece up to look.

Clay tools and supplies

Clay - a white stoneware clay body can be ordered through KCDA, they have the best price and they deliver to the school. I suggest Idaho White (this comes from Tacoma Clay Art) KCDA catalog #85533 Each carton is #50- 2 bags of clay. Website KCDA.org. Currently the price is \$35.86.

Glaze - I prefer the brand Stroke & Coat. These are colored glazes. Buy the ones that say no change or changes slightly at mid range. These glazes are very stable and can be mixed to make other colors. Ex. Add a little red to white to make pink. Add a little black to white to make grey. Brown too dark? Add some white. These can be purchased at Seattle Pottery Supply. If you buy 12 or more you get a 10 percent discount. Listed are the glaze colors I use, there are lots more. This is a big investment but will go a long way.

8 oz. \$11.50

1 pint \$21.00

SC-26 cotton tail. White

SC-15 Tuxedo. Black

SC-74 hot tamale. Red

SC-06 Sunkissed.	Bright yellow
SC-24 Dandelion.	Mellow yellow
SC-31 The blues.	Blue
SC-08 just froggy.	Dark green
SC-27 Sour Apple.	Chartreuse green
SC-33 Fruit of the vine.	Purple
SC-14 Java Bean.	Dark brown
SC-41 Brown Cow.	Light brown
SC-75 Orange-a-peel.	Very bright orange
SC-978 Cant-elope.	Bright orange

Craft foam mat to work on, 9x12 is ok, I like the 12x18 best, more work space. They won't last for ever but clean up nice. I suggest you get a couple of large sponges for wiping them down after use.

Small sponges to wipe fingers on to keep clay moist and short wooden skewers for scoring the clay and mark making. You can buy little sponges, or large sponges and cut into small pieces, or find some packing foam that is headed to the land fill and cut into small pieces, this is my favorite.

clay sculpting tool sets from KCDA

#85880 - 12 piece plastic set

#85897 - 10 piece wooden shaping tool set

Plastic round paint pallets are good for holding the glaze. Paper plates work too. Pallets can be purchased through KCDA.

Assorted paintbrushes to use for glaze application.











Small cups (yogurt?) for water to clean brushes.

I like to collect copy paper box lids from the school to transport work.

In a perfect world you would have a Rubbermaid (smooth) rolling cart to transport supplies and finished work from the kiln room to the classroom. I bet there are some carts in the school district that used to be used for TV's that could be repurposed.

Some schools have invested in needle tools. - great use for grant money. These are true clay tools used in every pottery studio. I have not ever had an issue with them, and always discuss the correct way to use them and offer students to pass if they don't think they want to use them.

Clay Materials Chart

Professional Supplies	On a Budget Supplies
<p>Slab Mat (for building on)</p> 	<p>Cut Yoga Mat or Construction paper</p> 
<p>Wire Cutter</p> 	<p>String</p> 
<p>Clay Tools for scratching/wedging</p> 	<p>Kitchen fork, knife, spoon & pencil</p> 
<p>Clay Sponge</p> 	<p>Kitchen Sponge</p> 
<p>Dish for Water</p> 	<p>Goodwill Bowl</p> 

Images from Google.com