

SPRAYING AND AIRBRUSHING

The technique of airbrushing underglazes and glazes onto the greenware of bisque is common in ceramics and is often taught to high school and college level ceramic students. Safe and proper rules of airbrushing should also be taught and enforced in any classroom or studio.

Airbrushing should be done in an exhaust ventilated spray booth specifically designed for this purpose. NIOSH approved dust masks should also be worn for safety. Airbrushing is an exciting ceramic decorating technique and need not be avoided if proper safety precautions are used. **Lead-containing glazes should NOT be airbrushed; there are suitable lead-free glazes for this purpose.** We do not recommend airbrushing for pre-school and elementary age children. In

high school, airbrushing should only be introduced under strict supervision.

If users feel they must spray glazes containing lead or silica, use extreme caution. When spraying these glazes in production, extreme caution MUST be taken. Use only a NIOSH approved particulate respirator for dust and water mist and replace it often. A safety supply house is the best source of suitable equipment. For more detailed information about masks for protection against dust and mist contact: Dept. of Health & Human Services, National Institute For Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH), (800) 356-4674, (513) 533-8328 (Outside U.S.), Monday through Friday 9-4 EST or visit their website, www.cdc.gov/niosh.

Use a spray booth equipped with a strong fan that exhausts all glaze away from the breathing zone. Replace all spray booth filters often. Wear protective clothing that is removed before eating, drinking, smoking or leaving work. Wash hands and arms thoroughly after spraying and removing protective clothes. Do not smoke, eat or drink in work area. If leaded glaze spraying is a regular or major part of your work, regular blood-lead-level testing by your doctor is necessary. Follow all OSHA guidelines for use of heavy metal products.

The above information references ASTM C1192, "Standard Guide For Spraying Ceramic Glazes Safely."