

WHAT IS A FIRING?



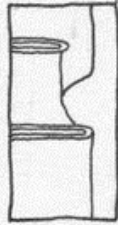
Firing is the process of adding heat to the ceramic material



There are a variety of ways to heat clay. They include a simple campfire, wood kilns, gas kilns, electric kilns and experimental solar kilns.



The atmosphere of the kiln helps dictate the color of the clay and glaze. An abundance of oxygen, oxidation, creates clear, bright colors. A lack of oxygen, reduction, gives warm browns and reds.



Generally, there are two firings. The first, bisque, drives the water from the clay so it may easily be glazed. The second, glaze firing, heats the clay to its particular vitrification temperature.



Cones, "Δ", are a common method of measuring the temperature inside the kiln. They are made of ceramic materials which melt at known temperatures.

JOHN-NORRIS-NET



CONE	°C	°F	COLOR	WHAT IS GOING ON?
Δ016	792°	1458°	Dull Red	Organic matter burns off.
Δ06	999°	1830°	Orange	Bisque, Lowfire, Terracotta
Δ3	1168°	2167°	Yellow	Commercial Toilets and Sinks
Δ10	1305°	2381°	Bright Yellow	Highfire, Dinnerware