



The following tips are for beginners to the LMCS Pottery group and who would like to learn more about glazing. We currently have around a dozen glazes all of which are suitable for a **Cone 9¹** firing (1260 °C). If you are interested in mid or low fire glazing, please discuss with a pottery subcommittee member.

Glazing Tips

- Always start by **wiping down** your artefact with a damp sponge. This removes dust, fine clay particles and any oils from handling it.
- Any surface of your artefact that will touch the kiln shelf (e.g. the bottom of a bowl or mug) must be **free from any glaze**.
 - Leave a margin (5mm minimum) in case the glaze runs.
 - Use a wax when dipping and/or
 - Remove the glaze after dipping. **Note:** this will not work as well if it is a high grog or porous clay while holes and therefore refrain from full submersion.
- Check the **consistency** (specific gravity) of the glaze first. If you dip your finger(s) in the glaze, it should create little rivers as it half sticks and half runs off. Ask an experienced potter if you think more water needs to be added.
- **Stirring** the glaze well ensures a consistent finish and reduces the risk of common glaze problems. Use a toilet brush to stir. If you are using multiple glazes **DO NOT cross contaminate** the equipment used with each glaze and wash before using another glaze.
- **Sieving** the glaze removes unwanted particles and compliments the stirring process. Ask an experienced potter to show you how to sieve.
- Glazes can be applied in different ways; brushing, dipping/pouring and spraying. At LMCS we don't have the facilities for spraying. Tongs are recommended for dipping.
- When dipping, count **three full seconds**.
- If your glaze comes out too thick, **remove** it (ask an experienced potter how) and start again.
- If you are going to double-dip:
 - Ensure the first dip has completely dried.
 - Allow enough space for the double-glazed section to run.
 - Use a "cookie" so that if the glaze does run it doesn't run onto the kiln shelf.

Cleaning

As with all areas of the shed, please clean up after yourself.

- Ensure the glazing area is wiped clean.
- Put all glaze buckets back under the shelves.
- Rinse and wipe dry any equipment you've used (including buckets, stirring implements, tongs and sieves). This must be done using the **outside tap**.
- If you're unsure about anything – just ask.

¹ According to [Glazy](#) and other references based on our kiln firing's last 100 °C rate is at 60 °C/hr.