

KILN PACKING GUIDE



This guide aims to ensure that our kilns are packed in an optimal way, to:

- Maximise the use of the kiln space to get more pieces fired with each firing.
- Ensure the kiln, shelves and thermocouple are not damaged.
- Ensure pieces are fired correctly.

General Care

- Only inducted members are to pack the kiln.
- Beware not to touch (or knock) the thermocouple. This is a very expensive part to replace. Always ensure that shelves and pieces are at least 3cm away from the thermocouple.
- Be mindful of correct lifting techniques (especially with the heavy shelves).
- Shelf supports to be above each other (two at back, one at front).
- Always fill a kiln before turning it on.
- Please see a Pottery Sub-Committee Member for programming or re-programming.
- If you're unsure – ask!

Bisque

- For bisque firing, pieces can be packed in as tightly as possible.
- Consider stacking artefacts together (e.g. bowls within bowls) and stacking to consistent heights to maximise the shelf spacing. Pieces can be stacked upside down or on their sides. However, be aware of shrinking.
- Final fired pieces (i.e. those with low-fire glazes or pre-glazes) should not be touching other pieces.
- Make sure each piece has an identification mark (initials or maker's mark).
- No mark – No firing!

Glost

- Make sure each piece has been bisque fired (and therefore should have an ID mark).
- For glaze (glost) firing, pieces should be packed in tightly in way that they are not touching.
- Beware that some pieces may distort (bend) during firing and therefore can end up touching other pieces or the walls of the kiln.
- Check each piece to make sure that glaze will not touch the shelf.
- This includes the possibility that glaze will run due to too much glaze (e.g. double-dipping) or glazes that are renowned for running. Use a "cookie" if unsure.
- If a piece looks like it may be problematic – do not pack it. Discuss with a supervisor or put it on the "Fix Me" shelf.

Post Firing- Unpacking

- Wait until the kiln drops below a temperature of 100 °C before 'cracking' the door open – be patient!
- Once all pieces have been removed from the kiln, please make a record using the "Firing Entry Form" (both bisque and glost) here: <https://www.lakemongershed.org.au/firingentryform.html>.
- If necessary, please take two or three photos.