

Runny Glazes

Runny glazes can be beautiful, but, if not used properly, they will ruin your pots and run onto the kiln shelves.

Glazes melt when fired to maturity and form a coating of glass on the surface of the pot. The glazes melt slowly, and as they melt they bubble and boil like thick syrup. As they get hotter and hotter, the glazes become more fluid, similar to the consistency of honey. Eventually, if over fired or too thick, the glaze will become so fluid it will run off the pot onto the shelves. Eventually, if over heated, the pot itself will begin to melt, deform and liquefy.

- When fired to maturity, some glazes are inherently more fluid (runny) than others.
- When application of the glaze is thick, glazes are more likely to run.
- When glazes are applied unevenly, resulting in thick and thin spots, the thick spots will be more likely to run.
- Some glaze combinations become extremely fluid where they overlap. This is known as a eutectic. Example: the overlap of Chun and Titanium Blue
- When over-fired, all glazes will become fluid and run.

The problem with runny glazes:

- When glaze runs off your pots, it ruins your pots.
- When glaze runs off your pots, it sticks to and damages our kiln shelves.

The Solution:

- Know which glazes are runny, somewhat runny and very runny.
- Use runny glazes only on the rims and insides of pots.
- Wax and sponge up a full 1/4 inch.
- Apply glazes with a uniform and appropriate thickness.
- Never use 3 glazes on the outside of a pot.
- Label all glazed pots so we know what glazes are on them.