

ARTrageous!

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Pottery Painting Tips & Tricks

Pottery Painting How-To's

1. Wash your hands before you begin, as oils and lotions can affect your finished piece.
2. Wipe off your piece with a damp sponge before you start painting to remove bisque dust. Wipe inside, outside, and upside down.
3. Use only glazes from the paint bar area on your pottery. Other paints in the studio are acrylic, and are not for pottery use.
4. Sketch lightly using ONLY the Dixon Ticonderoga #2 pencils found in the studio. These pencil marks will burn off during firing.
5. Paint 3 coats maximum; let each coat dry before applying the next; and keep track of your coats.
 - 1 coat of paint = a soft, watercolor look
 - 2 coats of paint = deeper color, with brushstrokes visible
 - 3 coats of paint = solid, opaque coverage
6. Paint light colors first. Light paints are sheer -- not opaque -- over dark paints. So, paint your light colors first, then add the dark colors. For example, for a yellow flower on a black background: Paint the yellow flower first, then paint the black background around the yellow flower.
7. Don't paint your piece white. It's not needed, because we will glaze your piece before firing, and all unpainted areas will be shiny white. You can use bright white paint (called Cottontail) to stand out against the creamy bisque background for snowmen, clouds, angel wings, etc.
8. Have a little "art oops"? No worries! Nothing is permanent until it's fired. Refine that "oops" with a toothpick, or a damp Q-tip or sponge.
9. Aprons aren't needed for pottery painting. These colors are water soluble, and won't stain clothing.

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Pottery Painting Tips & Tricks, Continued

Uh-oh! Beware of the Dreaded Paint Over-Application!
We love happy outcomes, so for the best results:

1. Don't go over 3 coats, or your piece may "shiver" (i.e., glaze could flake off, or push back and create bare spots. These pottery pieces are not safe to use, and cannot go home with you.
2. Avoid too many coats of paint on the rim:
Either: Painting the rim of your dish when you paint the top of the dish
Or: Painting the rim of your dish when you paint the bottom of the dish.
Best practice: Leave the rim blank until you've finished painting; then sponge on 3 coats.
Never allow 6 coats of paint to accumulate on the rim!
3. Watch your children, and "Just Say No" to kids' globbing paint on the pottery, painting the same spot continuously for hours, and pouring paint directly onto the piece from the bottle. Remember: Just three proper coats, and stop!

Important Note: ARTrageous is not responsible for shivering and glaze push-backs caused by paint over-application, so take care to avoid this.