

# CERAMIC STUDIO NEWSLETTER

Artisan  
and business center  
— NWTC —  
BLOCK 4 2024

## NEW GLAZE BUCKETS



The metal whisks that were previously used in the studio to mix glazes caused scratches on the bottom of the glaze buckets. Switching to metal paddles led to the loosening of plastic from these scratches, contaminating the glaze with plastic particles.

To address this issue, all glazes have been sieved to eliminate any plastic residue, and all buckets have been replaced with new ones that are free from scratches.

## CLAY EXCHANGE

TRADE YOUR CLAY SCRAPS FOR PUGGED RECLAIM!

Exchange a minimum of 20lbs of greenware clay for pugged reclaim at a 70% exchange rate. Please be aware that our reclaim consists of a blend of all our studio clay bodies, so the final clay color may vary.

**EXCHANGE RATE: 70%**

FOR INSTANCE, IF YOU BRING IN 20LBS, YOU'LL GET 14LBS BACK!

**MINIMUM 20LBS**

**FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY QUARTER  
FROM 4-6PM**

**JULY 9TH | OCT 1ST | JAN 7TH | APRIL 8TH**

POLICIES:

- When exchanging a container of clay, remove excess water
- Weight will be rounded to the nearest half pound.
- No outside clay can be exchanged.
- No underglazes or colorants.
- No bisqueware or glazeware.
- First come, first served

## KILN UPDATE

NWTC Facilities staff made adjustments to our kiln door to create a more uniform seal, reducing heat loss at the base of the kiln.

The Easy-Load Kiln is now firing more evenly but we continue to work with L&L Kilns to monitor and improve.



## KILN FURNITURE CART

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE  
ITEMS FROM THE KILN  
FURNITURE CART.

Only Ceramic Instructors  
and Staff are allowed to  
take items from the Kiln  
Furniture Cart.

Need Something? Ask!



## CLEAR CRAZING

Crazing is one of the most common problems related to glaze defects. It appears in the glazed surface of fired ware as a web of fine hairline cracks. Crazed pots are not suitable for food as they may leak if the clay body is exposed, and potentially harbor bacteria in the cracks.

**WHAT ARE THE CAUSES OF CRAZING?**

Crazing occurs when the glaze shrinks more than the body of the ware. This happens generally as the wares cool after firing. The cooling of the kiln and the contraction of the wares causes cracks form. Heating and then cooling too rapidly can cause the glaze to shrink too quickly and cracks appear more readily.

**WHAT ARE WE DOING TO CORRECT THIS ISSUE?**

Changing our glaze recipes to reduce the expansion of the glaze. This means using materials with low levels of expansion and decreasing materials with high levels of expansion.

**Ultra Clear has an expansion of 6.4  
Ultra Clear 8% (Adjusted Recipe) has an expansion of 6.1**

## 4th QUARTER CHALLENGE

Open to ALL Students & Open Studio Members



**FUNCTIONAL TEAPOT**

MUST HAVE: LID, HANDLE, SPOUT

Submission Deadline: **6/17**

Facebook Voting: **6/20-6/27**

Winner Announced: **6/27**

Submit Image Online @ [NWTC.edu/ArtisanCenter](https://www.nwtc.edu/ArtisanCenter)



CERAMIC STUDIO  
COORDINATOR

**Annie Stenseth**

[annie.stenseth@nwtc.edu](mailto:annie.stenseth@nwtc.edu)

920-272-9810