

1. MINIMISE DUST

All activities require wearing a quality individual respirator with an appropriate dust filter

- Wet mop floors.
Never sand pottery when dry – sponge it when wet/leather hard instead.
- Ensure mixing of powdered materials is in a confined and ventilated space away from others.
- Clean studio monthly with a quality vacuum with suitable particle filter (incl. shelves, tool drawers etc.). A wet/dry vacuum is an excellent addition to a pottery studio's equipment.
- Clean benches while clay is moist – scrape with a paint scraper, sponge down.
- Vacuum the kiln interior weekly with a quality vacuum with a suitable particle filter to remove dust.

2. BACK CARE

- Carry only one single clay bag (10-15kg) at a time.
- Use appropriate lifting strategies when lifting (see Worksafe Australia web site).
- Carefully pack kilns – inserting kiln shelves, positioning heavy work, vary repetitive tasks, take breaks, stretch etc.
- Do not twist while lifting heavy weights.
- Vary repetitive tasks with short periods of stretching (throwing, reclaiming clay etc.).

3. SLIPPING HAZARDS

- The best floors for studio hygiene are smooth floors like lino etc. but wet clay and smooth floors create slippery situations. TAKE CARE! Install adhesive textured strips or rubber mats on floors in dangerous zones, e.g. sink areas or exterior doorways

4. ORAL HYGIENE

- Do not place anything in your mouth while in the studio (no paintbrushes, tools, pencil/pens etc.)
- Do not eat in the studio at any time because you can pick up/transfer dust to your mouth
- Be meticulous when washing hands after tasks. Wash hand towels regularly to remove dry clay/dust.
- Wear latex gloves and a plastic apron when handling powdered materials – do not re-use gloves without washing them fully.
- DO NOT PUT ANY CERAMIC MATERIAL IN OR NEAR YOUR MOUTH. Ask for a Material Safety Data Sheet.

5. EYES

- Wear safety goggles when dealing with powdered substances.
- Wear UV filtering goggles/glasses when looking into hot kilns.
- Most ceramic materials can be washed out of the eye with a mild saline solution in an eye bath – have available in the studio at all times.

6. FIRST AID

- Have an appropriate first aid kit in the studio and keep supplies updated and fully stocked.

7. FUMES

- Kilns should be vented to the exterior of a building.
- BEWARE of lustre fumes during application and firing.