

All decorating slips will achieve their best results if the slip is matched to the clay body (i.e. use earthenware slip with earthenware clay, stoneware slip with stoneware clay).

SLIP MADE FROM THE SAME CLAY (WHITE) AS YOUR POTTERY

- Break clay into 1cm² pieces and soak in water for a day.
- Blend to a creamy consistency with a stick, blender, paint stirrer etc.
- Wet ceramic stain, underglaze or oxide powder till saturated then introduce this mix to the creamy slip mixture. The more stain, the darker the colour (like colouring cake icing with food colouring).
- Apply slip to moist clay rather than dry because of its high water content to avoid opening or weakening joins on dry pottery pieces by wetting them.

SLIP MADE FROM COMMERCIAL CASTING SLIP

- Prepare wetted stain, underglaze or oxide powder as above.
- Stir into a small quantity of casting slip then add additional water to make a very thin slip. Sit overnight till the mix settles. Next day, pour off the clear water (including the deflocculant in the casting slip) then stir. Add a little more water if necessary.
- Be careful not to apply this slip thickly, as it will peel off.
- Always apply slip to moist clay not dry clay.

COMMERCIAL RAW/BISQUE SLIP

- Raw/Bisque Slip can be applied to wet clay, leather hard clay, dry raw clay or bisque fired clay.
- Stir Raw/Bisque Slip well before use and also during periods of prolonged use.
- Apply with a soft brush to clay surface. Wash brush in water when finished painting.
- Raw/Bisque Slip can be blended to create new colours.
- Once fired, Raw/Bisque Slip can be left for a matt coloured decoration.
- Glaze can be applied over Raw/Bisque Slip.

SLIP MADE FROM A RECIPE

- Books and magazines often have base recipes for making slip from raw materials – ensure the recipe is in an Australian publication as raw materials vary from country to country
- Ensure that you have a quality set of scales before starting (i.e. digital for small quantities or kitchen style for larger batches).
- Weigh out colourant additions as a percentage of the recipe so that in future you can repeat the colour mixture precisely.
- Follow the instructions in the recipe with regard to quantities of water etc.

BENEFITS OF SLIPS

- Dried out slip can always be re wet unlike underglazes.
- Slips are very tolerant decorating products and rarely peel off when over applied.
- Slips are easy to remove if mistakes are made – they can be sponged off wet work or sanded off dry work.
- Slips are very easy to make and economical.