

- Store lustres away from sunlight, preferably in a refrigerator. Long-term storage is not recommended as certain shades, such as red and purple, tend to gel over time. The bottles should be kept tightly stoppered and clean around the lip.
- Use a very soft brush to apply lustres. Hard bristles tend to leave brush marks. Successful application requires speed with a minimum of brushing. A separate brush should be used for each colour to avoid contamination. Brushes should be cleaned with acetone and washed in warm soapy water then stored away from dust. DO NOT use brushes that have been used for other pottery processes – they will be impregnated with dust.
- Lustres are ideally applied to clean, dust-free, degreased and glossy glazed surfaces.
- Lustres are generally supplied ready to use from the bottle without the addition of thinner. If necessary, they can be thinned with lustre thinner. Standing bottles of lustre without their lids will encourage dehydration, and increase the fumes in the workspace.
- Painting lustres on pottery requires good control of the thickness and evenness of application. The richer and more viscous colours require a fairly thin application, whereas other colours should be applied more thickly. If lustres are applied too thickly they tend to lose their brilliance and adhesion, and develop pinholes and crazing. To apply an all over lustre coverage, use a clean sponge rather than a brush. It is advisable to add a few drops of thinner to your colour before covering large areas to avoid rapid drying. Mix the thinner thoroughly with the lustre before application.
- Always wear a quality fume mask while using lustres.
- Lustres are metallic solutions (i.e. gold, platinum, copper) and should not be mixed to create new colours; however they can be used side by side to create effects.
- They should be fired to 750°C-800°C in an oxidation atmosphere with good kiln ventilation (bungs out for the first 300°C), preferably in an electric kiln. Kiln rooms should be well ventilated when lustre firing is taking place.
- Beautiful colours and effects may be obtained by firing different colours one over another, but each coat must be fired separately before applying the next.