

Welcome to the ceramics area of TAP! We have wonderful facilities, and this will help you make the most of them.

There are **signs on all of the wooden shelves: follow the directions.**

Stay out of the kiln area! It can be dangerous, and often fragile.

Clay

Put your name on your clay, or others will use it.

You can use any **unmarked clay** in the studio area.

Clay at special discounted rates can be **purchased** at the desk for **\$7** per **25#** bag, **\$4** ½ bag, **\$2** ¼ bag. Please note that, for now, all clay payments go directly to **Cat Grey**, not TAP; if she's not here, give it to the **Shift Volunteer** (cash & check only, IOUs are acceptable). Other clay bodies are available to order if you know just what you want.

Throwing clay is smooth, and **handbuilding clay** has sand in it, called *grog*, and is much stronger. Your choice!

Clays come in **white** (it looks grey but fires pale) and **terracotta red**. **The red can stain before it is fired, so be careful.**

Special **free "Kid Bags"** are located on the shelves—kids of all ages may just grab one and go make some art!

Tiles and boards to work on are supposed to be on the **shelves**, but look around. 😊

Plastic bags to keep work damp between visits are under the little **sink**.

Your work must be "**fired**" (**baked**) **twice**. You put "**glaze**" (clay paint) on your work **only AFTER** it is **fired once**.

- Clay that is **raw, wet, dry but not fired**, is called **green**. It is very fragile.
- Clay that has been **fired once** is called **bisque**. It is now strong like ox!

- Clay that has been **fired again with glaze** is called **finished**—take it home!

Clay that **dries out/breaks** is no longer your friend and goes in the **DEAD CLAY** section to be recycled by our reclaiming expert. When that's done, **reclaimed clay** will appear like magic somewhere and is always **free**.

Put your **green** things to be fired on the shelf marked **FIRE ME #1—BISQUE**; it will automatically be fired for you and placed on the **BISQUE** shelf.

The **glazes** are on the shelves by the fire door. Do **NOT** use anything except these glazes! Use any **brush** you can find, but **clean it very well**. Nobody loves a sad brush, and then they get lonely and cry. Do you want to make a brush cry??

The **color of the glaze** will be **different after it has been fired**: read the label, and follow the directions carefully, even if they seem odd. Better yet, take a free **glaze class** (sign up at the front desk), or ask around for help. Typically, you need to put 2–4 coats on to make it come out right, and not all are shiny!

Put **glazed things** on the shelf labelled **FIRE ME #2—GLAZE**. Again, it will be fired automatically.

If there isn't room for your item on the correct shelf, just put a **note** with it telling the Kiln Mistress what it needs, and it will be taken care of—she checks the shelves constantly!

NEVER move anything that isn't yours, no matter how badly you want to clean and organize: that is how things get lost or broken. Trust us....



Basic Clay Area Guide

Tacoma Art Place

1116 S 11th St
Tacoma WA 98405-4017
253 238 1006
www.tacomaartplace.org

The Wheel

If you have **never thrown before, don't even try on your own**. Honestly, you will die of frustration, and who will have to move the body? Probably me, the Kiln Mistress! Ask up front to be put on the list for a **class**. The more people who want a class, the better chance it will happen soon.

If you unplug something to use the wheel, that's OK, but **plug it back in after!**

Use a **removable bat** if you can find one, **cut the piece off** if you can't. **Don't leave it on the wheel** to set up unless you don't mind someone else cutting it off!

Clean up after! The **splash guard comes apart** for easy clean-up. **Don't dump slip down the drain;** leave it in a cup for the next person.

Miscellaneous

Follow TAP on **Facebook**; we post **photos** of the kilns as they are loaded and unloaded—you can see when **your pieces** are fired!

Can you fire a kiln? Want to?
Contact the Kiln Mistress, Cat!

Want to learn to **load and fire a kiln?**
Get on the **Class Wanted** list!

Contact

Acataphasia (Cat) Grey—Acting Kiln Mistress

catgrey@gmail.com

Texts welcome at **206 291 4594**

Call that number **AFTER 11 a.m.** but leave a **message**—I screen unknown numbers.

Call before 11 a.m. ONLY in case of ACTUAL EMERGENCY. Keep calling over and over till I answer, don't leave a message.

Examples of **ACTUAL EMERGENCIES**:

- **Someone is messing with the kilns** or shelves, you can't make them stop, they don't have my permission, and they need me to yell at them.
- **President Obama is there** and won't leave till he meets me.
- **Things are on fire?** WRONG! **Call 911**, it's a **FIRE!!**

Again, welcome—and have fun playing in the mud!!

~~'Cat

August 2011