

**NORTHCOTE POTTERY SUPPLIES
TECHNICAL TIPS AND PRODUCT INFORMATION #31**

HANDBUILDING TECHNIQUES – COIL

- On an absorbent surface (unpainted board, tea towel, sheet of hessian etc) pat out a flat disc of clay about 1cm thick, and cut to the desired shape for the base of the pot.
- Roll a number of 1 – 1½ cm thick coils (or snakes) that are even along the length of the coil.
- Place the first coil onto the outer edge of the flat disc (base) which has been moistened with a small amount of water and scored. Push the coil down well and blend the inside edge of the coil to the base with your finger – work at 90° to the coil, not along its length! Join the ends of the coil to each other in the same fashion.
- Apply the next coil onto your first and continue on until the form starts to become too tall to continue because it is wobbly. Wrap the form in plastic and leave till the next day when you can commence adding more coils. This process may continue over a number of days depending on the desired height of the form.
- NB: The outside of the pot can be left with the coils exposed for decorative effect or smoothed over.
- Always dry coil pots very, very slowly in plastic to ensure they do not crack. Make sure the base of your pot is not stuck to the base board/fabric during drying.
- Take care handling bone dry coil pots as they can be very fragile if not joined well.

RECOMMENDED CLAY FOR THIS ACTIVITY

BEGINNERS: PS2000 Terracotta, PS3010 Stoneware, WEB White Earthenware

EXPERIENCED: PS4080 Fine White Earthenware, PS10 Porcelain, PS5000 Earthenware/Stoneware Blend

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