

NORTHCOTE POTTERY SUPPLIES
TECHNICAL TIPS AND PRODUCT INFORMATION #15
POTTERY FAULTS & REMEDIES 2

FAULT	APPEARANCE	CAUSE	SUGGESTED REMEDIES
PINHOLED GLAZES	Pin holes in glaze after firing.	Gas release from body and/or glaze during firing due to: a) Underfiring of clay body. b) Air trapped in clay. c) Over application and overfiring of underglaze colours. d) Underfiring of glaze. e) Overfiring of glaze giving rise to volatilization.	a) Fire body to recommended firing temperature. b) De-air clay before making pots. c) Reduce application of underglaze colours. d) Fire glaze to recommended firing temperature. Ensure kiln is heating evenly throughout. e) Reduce firing temperature of glaze.
FLAKY UNDERGLAZE	Underglaze separates from the clay body with a cracked mud / peeling appearance.	1. Underglaze applied too thickly.	1. Apply less coats of underglaze. MAXIMUM 3 COATS. 2. Stir underglaze regularly when in use to prevent settling. 3. Thin underglaze with water or brushing medium if it appears too thick/dehydrated. 4. Add some brush on clear glaze or frit/water to the mixture to increase the melting materials and therefore improve adhesion.
CLAY EXPLOSION IN THE KILN	Shards and dust left after firing or thick areas blown off pottery items.	1. Firing moist/wet clay items. 2. Not allowing sufficient time for thicker sections to dry. 3. Heating thick work too quickly.	1. Fully dry all clay pieces before firing. 2. Fully dry <u>entire</u> piece, including all thick areas. Slow firing rate to approx. 50°C per hour. 3. Firing too fast for the fine nature of the clay, large size of the work, or large volume of pottery packed into the kiln.
OVERFIRING	Molten and malformed pottery after glaze. Bases of pots stuck to kiln shelves. All pottery and shelves collapsed and melted, attached to kiln walls etc	1. Overfiring beyond the top temperature of the clay body. 2. Kiln not turning off or running for far too long to reach the correct temperature (over 24 hours is way too long). 3. Not enough batt wash on kiln shelves or inappropriate clay for the firing temperature used.	1. Follow the manufacturer's instructions on the clay bag. 2. Double check kiln firing temperatures before starting a firing. Ensure kiln is regularly serviced and cleaned and turns off at the appropriate time. 3. Batt wash kiln shelves at least once a year.

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