



CLAYMAN

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PRODUCT INFORMATION

GLAZES THAT "PAN"

Glazes can be made from a vast range of raw materials. Examples that contain a reasonable proportion of clay (i.e. china clay, ball clay etc) will drop out of suspension on storage or standing but the glaze slurry is soft and easily dispersed into the standing water. Some materials such as frits can cause the glaze slurry to form a hard "pan". This is a hard lump that forms at the bottom of your glaze bucket and is not easily dispersed. A hard implement, such as a metal scraper, will assist in breaking up the lump. A mechanical stirrer is used by many workshops to save time and energy.

Adding a glaze suspender to the glaze mix will not stop the materials dropping out of suspension on standing, but does prevent that slurry forming such a hard pan. The question is how much should be added. The answer is not simple as all glazes depending on their make up are different. Glazes made from lead frits may need approximately 10ml per 5 litres whereas glazes made with Alkaline Frit (normally raku glazes) suffer the problem more severely and will need much more. One can put too much suspender into a mix, therefore resolving the problem is very much a "suck it and see" method.

Firstly all glaze sediments, irrespective of the glaze, must be dispersed with the water. Once this has been achieved add glaze suspender sparingly. We suggest 10ml to 4-5 litres of glaze slop. If a hard sediment is formed again on standing add 5ml more suspender after dispersing all sediment again. Follow this procedure until the sediment that occurs on standing is soft and easily dispersed. Once you have achieved the correct balance of suspender to liquid glaze record the quantities for future reference.