

Cork Clay

Cork Clay is imported from Japan, and is distributed by Art Clay World, USA, certified instructors, and dealers. It is easily molded into any shape and makes an excellent internal structure for Art Clay Silver.

Shape and Dry

1. Take out the necessary amount of Cork Clay.
2. Form the desired shape for beads or sculpture.
3. Dry completely overnight, or place in a dehydrator or toaster oven at 200°F for at least 2 hours. Using a slow drying process will help prevent surface cracks in the clay. If there are cracks, moisten the affected area and then fill with fresh Cork Clay.
PLEASE NOTE: The Cork Clay must be completely dry before firing!
4. After the cork has been completely dried, it may be filed, drilled, sanded, and finished to enhance the impression left behind.

Firing

Art Clay that is fired with Cork Clay must be fired with a kiln, and at a lower temperature. The lower temperature is especially important when using significant amounts of Cork Clay. The danger of higher firing temperature is that when the cork burns, the air in the kiln may superheat, causing the internal temperature to rise close to, or surpass, the melting point of silver. This extra heat may result in damaged or distorted pieces.

Firing with Art Clay Silver Standard: 1472°F for 30 minutes
Firing with Art Clay Silver 650/1200: 1200°F for 30 minutes
1290°F for 15 minutes
1380°F for 10 minutes
1435°F for 5 minutes

Tips:

Keep all unused portions of Cork Clay tightly wrapped, and kept in an air-tight container. If the cork dries out, it cannot be re-moistened.

It is a good idea to store Cork Clay at room temperature. If you see dark spots develop (mildew), this will not affect the use of the clay, because the spots will burn off during firing.

Do not add water to the Cork Clay. If you have two pieces of cork clay to join together, you can moisten the pieces in the area where they will join. Usually pressure and the moisture in the Cork Clay are sufficient to join the Cork Clay pieces.

If the cork still contains any moisture, and you fire it inside an Art Clay piece, the heat will turn the moisture into steam. The escaping steam may develop enough pressure to damage the Art Clay piece.

Cork Clay creates smoke as it burns. Please remember to fire only in well ventilated rooms. Smoke may escape from the kiln during firing, this is normal. DO NOT OPEN THE KILN DOOR! Opening the door will provide oxygen to the fire, and can possibly cause a flash fire, endangering anyone standing in front of the kiln!

There will be a small amount of green ash residue in your piece. The ash is easily removed with running water, after the piece is cool.

HAVE FUN!!! As an internal sculptural structure, this medium saves hours of time creating hollow forms.

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