

Mayco Stoneware Glazes in Dry Formula: A Studio Guide



Mayco is very proud to introduce most of our Stoneware glaze products in a Dry formula. Potters, teachers and hobbyists will love the ease of use this product offers.



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Mayco Stoneware Dry Glazes

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Mayco is very proud to introduce most of our Stoneware glaze products in a Dry form. Dry formulas are sold in 5 pound and 25 pound bags.



Shown here, Mayco's Cinnabar and Frost Blue glazes layered at cone 6.

Why use Dry?

Dry formulas are added to water and used in buckets for dipping techniques. Many functional potters prefer dipping to painting for perfect coverage. Dipped glazes are great for pieces with a lot of surface texture and for layering techniques.

Are Mayco's Dry Glazes the same as the Mayco Stoneware Glazes that I buy in pints?

The colors and formulas are identical with one exception. Mayco Stoneware Dry glazes (SD is the prefix, it stands for Stoneware Dry) do not contain any organic gums. In our Stoneware (liquid) line of products, gums are added. The organic gums in a glaze allow it to have the proper consistency for brushing. Too much gum added to a dipping version of the same glaze can cause it to lose the 'sheeting' action that is desirable in dipping formulas. The glaze will seem too thick and will take a long time to dry. Also, the glaze will sometimes cling to the piece too thickly.



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So, you can look at it this way:

SW glazes are liquid Stoneware glazes which have added gum. They are perfect for brushing, pouring and use in a sliptrailer. SD glazes are the exact same thing in dry form, minus the added organic gums. They are great for dipping application.

Mayco's Alabaster (SD106) dipped over Green Tea (SW108)

I use both versions of Mayco's Stoneware glazes in my process. For tips, check out Mayco's Facebook page, the Mayco Mudroom.

Do Mayco's SD glazes have a Shelf Life?

The lack of organic gum in the SD line of products allows it to not 'go bad' in the bag or the bucket. (If properly mixed and maintained)



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Is mixing powdered glazes a safe process?

It is very important that users wear an approved NIOSH respirator mask any time when mixing glaze. Following the instructions for mixing and using a good respirator makes the process totally safe for users.



How do you mix the SD Dry glazes?

Tips:

- Start with a clean 5 gallon bucket
- Add one pint of distilled water per pound of dry mix you plan to add. (If you start with a 5# bag, put 5 pints water in the bucket first. This will usually make a somewhat thick mixture. Add water to get the consistency you like. Be careful though, if you add too much water, you can offset the intended ratio enough to cause product to hard pan) Your initial purchase should be for at least 10 of pounds dry glaze. This makes a nice depth of liquid glaze in a typical 5 gallon bucket.
- After adding the dry mix to the water, allow glaze to slake down into the water and become completely saturated before stirring or moving the mixture.
(with most of our Dry Glazes, running the mixture through a sieve is OPTIONAL, thanks to fine particle size)
- Stir with a wood paddle or stick.



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How is this product and process going to save my studio money?



Your initial purchase of 10-25 pounds of dry glaze will be the big investment. Once you have bucket of glaze with added water, that bucket will only need an occasional 'recharge' or addition of 5 pounds of dry.

Most artists just keep this system going for years. Some artists will add gum or bentonite to their mixes. This is an acceptable technique customize the consistency of the product for individual needs.

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What makes Mayco Dry glazes so good?



Mayco's Sapphire (SD123) over Silver Sage (SW102). Cone 6.

The quality is remarkable, try them and see. For More information on Mayco's Stoneware Dry line of products and all the products we offer, visit www.Maycocolors.com.

Our studio and lab tests have shown extremely positive results on the performance of the SD glazes.

-They do not hard pan. All dipping glazes will settle after being stirred. A lot of homemade or even competitor glazes tend to settle to a very hard consistency in the bottom of the bucket making it very difficult to remix at the time of use. This is called "pancaking". All Mayco Stoneware Dry formulas are mixed with preventing pancaking in mind. Our dry glazes are fine and uniform in particle size, which keeps them from settling out hard in the bucket if mixed properly. (See Tips, above.)

-They sheet off of bisqueware quickly, causing a barely noticeable drip mark. Again, the fine particle size is the reason. They grip perfectly to bisque and in second dips.

