

## How To Care for Your Ceramic Molds

A ceramic mold is an investment that will pay off many, many times over, providing you are willing to treat it with care. Here are a few tips...

- ~ Store your molds in a DRY place.
- ~ Avoid stacking your molds, but if you **MUST** stack them, place a piece of cardboard between each mold.
- ~ Before fusing, ensure that the mold has received an even coating of kiln wash. At least 3-4 coats of kiln wash should be evenly applied over the entire surface of the mold, **INCLUDING** the lip and/or any portion of the mold that **COULD** come in contact with the molten glass. Better to be safe than sorry!
- ~ Be sure that the kiln wash/primer is **THOROUGHLY** dry before placing your mold in the kiln. Mold manufacturers recommend allowing 24 hours for the kiln wash/primer to cure properly. You can choose to cure your kiln wash/primer using your kiln if your wish (see article below).
- ~ If you cure your kiln wash/primer onto the mold using the heat of a kiln (see article below), then you **MUST** allow the mold **AND** the kiln to cool again **COMPLETELY** before you begin firing.
- ~ Make sure the kiln shelf is clean! Any remaining glass debris on your kiln shelf will **FUSE** (permanently) to the base of your mold and may even result in the mold becoming fused to the kiln shelf as well!
- ~ Avoid thermal shock by heating and cooling the mold **SLOWLY!!** Like glass, ceramic molds expand and contract during the heating and cooling processes. Failure to give the mold the time it needs to adjust to these temperature changes will result in cracking.
- ~ Pay **CLOSE** attention to your slumping and draping projects. Don't allow the glass to overlap the outer edges of the mold, as this can cause the glass to wrap over the lip of the mold thereby causing the mold to crack when the glass begins to cool as pressure is exerted on the edges of the mold.
- ~ Make sure your mold is **COMPLETELY** cool before storing.