

How to Apply Kiln Wash to Metal Molds

We've had our fair share of customers and students who ask, "How DO you get kiln wash to adhere to a metal mold?" so here's the trick...

First, you will heat your mold to about 450 degrees and you can do this either in your conventional oven, or in your kiln. IF you are planning to heat the mold in your kiln, be sure to place the mold ON a kiln-washed kiln shelf.

Next, WITH your KILN MITTS ON, you will carefully remove the mold from the kiln or the oven and set it on a heat-proof surface (like another kiln shelf, or a brick) where you will then apply kiln wash with a haike brush or with an air brush in nice even strokes.

The kiln wash will make a sizzling sound as the water in the wash evaporates leaving the chalky residue sticking to the mold. You should make certain that your mold has been coated thoroughly before you return it to the oven or kiln to complete the drying/curing process.

Be certain that you have turned your oven or kiln OFF before returning the mold for the drying process. You may, if you prefer, leave the kiln washed mold out in the open to air dry, but it is imperative that all kiln washed molds be thoroughly dry BEFORE you slump or fuse.

If, after you have prepared your metal mold with kiln wash, you discover a small area where the wash did not adhere properly, you can take your hair dryer and apply hot air directly to the bare spot to heat the metal. Remember metal conducts heat, so wear a kiln mitt so you can keep a good grip on your mold! Then, with a small paint brush, dab a bit of kiln wash on the bare spot and then apply more hot air from the dryer to cure the kiln wash.