

How To Ensure A Cure or, How To Make Sure Your Kiln Wash is REALLY Dry!

It is **CRITICAL** that before you begin fusing, you have coated your kiln shelf (and any mold(s) you may be using) with kiln wash, also known as "primer". It is equally **CRITICAL** that the kiln wash/primer be thoroughly **DRY** before you begin fusing!

The simplest way to do this is to place the kiln washed items (shelf and/or molds) out in the sunshine and fresh air and let mother nature do her thing. This is my favorite way to dry a freshly washed shelf, and it's easy enough to do when the weather is cooperating and you have a nice breezy day with plenty of sunshine, but of course this is not always the case, so we have a couple of other options for you to consider ...

You can also dry your kiln shelf or molds by placing them in your kiln. With the kiln's lid in a vented position (open about one to two inches), turn the kiln "on" and program your kiln to ramp up (heat) to 500 degrees at about 250 degrees per hour. At 500 degrees, you will take a look at the shelf and/or molds and make a visual assessment. You should notice that the kiln wash has lightened significantly in color, though a few dark spots may still remain on the shelf or molds. The darker spots are indications that some of the kiln wash is still wet/damp and **IF** this is the case, you will **HOLD** the temperature in the kiln at 500 degrees until you see that all the dark spots have disappeared completely. Once you see that the dark areas are gone, you may close the kiln lid, turn **OFF** the kiln and allow the internal temperature to return to room temperature. The kiln, the shelf and/or molds **MUST** be **COMPLETELY** cool again before you begin fusing.

Another method that you can use is a hair dryer. The hair dryer is best used to dry SMALL areas that you may have had to "touch up" on your kiln shelf or to dry a small earring mold. This is NOT the desired method for drying a whole kiln shelf or any medium to large ceramic mold because while the dryer may succeed at drying the outermost layer of the kiln wash, a ceramic mold may still retain enough moisture to cause serious problems (like cracking) when you put it in the kiln and begin firing. While not an ideal tool for curing kiln wash on a **CERAMIC** mold, a hair dryer **CAN** be very helpful in heating **METAL** molds and speed drying the kiln wash on these types of molds.

Ideally, it is in your best interest to **PLAN AHEAD** whenever possible and give your kiln wash/primer plenty of time to dry before you begin your warm glass project.