



East Creek Handbook  
Materials for Wood, Soda, Pit, and  
Raku Firings  
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## Appendix:

### East Creek- Recommended Materials from Georgie's

East Creek has long been an educational place where experiments have been encouraged. Through that experience, we have come to a list of recommended materials for folks just starting out. These are the flexible, forgiving materials that will respond well to the kiln and yield the best chance for success and are readily available at Georgies in Portland. Other materials may of course be used, especially as part of a well considered test.

#### Wood Firing: Anagama and Catenary Arch

Clay: Cone 10 clay is strongly recommended. Many cone 6 buff stoneware clays will work- but **never, ever cone 6 red clays**. Porcelain generally works well, as do porcelaneous stoneware bodies. More refractory bodies also work well but sometimes don't develop full glass coverage.

Recommended	Permitted	Discouraged/Caution	Never
Deschutes White with Old Hickory ^10	White Salmon ^6	Any deep red ^10 clay	Cannon Beach ^10 (dunts)
3 Finger Jack ^10 (arch. blend too)	G-mix ^6	Re-fired work	<b>Red ^6 clay</b>
Crystal Springs Porcelain ^10	Trail Mix ^6	Pipenburg Raku (dunts)	Foreign Melties
Umpqua White ^10	NZ Porcelain ^6 (in the back)	Pendleton Red ^10	
Rogue River Buff ^6	White Rose Porcelain	Three Finger Jack Red ^10	
Laguna B-Mix ^10		Santiam ^10 (candunt)	
Laguna Soldate			



60 ^10			
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### **ADVANCED CLAYWORK**

The world of clay is so much deeper than Georgie's inventory. We use a lot of Georgies clay because it works and it's close. But we sometimes modify commercial bodies with the addition of natural clays from the area at 3-5%. You may use these hybrid clays in the wood kilns, but a line test is suggested. Remember, tests are twice as complex because you're measuring concentration AND kiln location. So a good test would have 3 groups of varying concentrations; one each for the front, middle, and back.

Slips: They work. Try a porcelain slip over a rough body. Or a natural slip over a commercial body. Test for fit before making too many!

**Wadding:** Is provided. We use a 60/40 mix of Alumina Hydroxide and EPK. Some iron bearing wadding may also be available for use. You are welcome to bring shells to stack pieces on. You are also welcome to use your own wadding provided its formula is **specifically approved by Joe and least 60% alumina hydrate.**

Shells: Shells can be used as wadding. The best shells to use are scallop shells that are on the thick side. Other ridged shells work too, including bay clams from this area. Avoid thin shells. Shells with no ridges won't read strongly as shells on the work but may leave interesting marks nonetheless. Please bring your own shells and feel free to give and take shells to our community bin.

**Glaze:** Glaze will be provided. We have Gustin Shino ^10 and Amy's Famous Tenmoku ^10 in garbage cans.

If you want to use your own glazes that is acceptable. They may have no more than 2% copper or .5% cobalt compounds in them. Good etiquette would be to avoid cobalt and copper altogether until you've made friends with the crew and tested your glaze in moderation. High clay glazes like shino are most suitable. Celedons and cone 6 glazes are also permissible for experimentation. Remember, if you haven't tested it, chances are good it will experience a defect.

Underglaze works to varying degrees. Generally, the darker the color the better it holds up in atmosphere. Black is generally the strongest color. You're welcome to experiment with underglaze. \



**A Note on Shelves:** We use several types of shelves to fire our kilns:  $\frac{3}{4}$ " Silicon Carbide Shelves (Crystolon Brand),  $\frac{3}{8}$ " Nitride Bonded Silicon Carbide shelves, and 1" Mullite shelves. The traditional SiC shelves are thickest and will hold up to anything and are for the front of the kilns. The nitride bonded shelves are for the middle and are thin and light, but have a tendency to crack and come delaminated at too high of temps. The mullite shelves are the workhorse of the clay world and are used only in the back.



## **Raku and Pit Firing**

### Raku:

I almost always use Pipenburg raku clay and highly recommend it. As a bonus you can wood fire it so the pots can be interchangeable! (not the glaze though). I use Georgies raku glazes, my favorites are white crackle, midnight luster, copper penny, and Alligator Raku (matte). These are provided to workshop participants.

Almost any clay can be used for raku- the grittier the better. The worst clay to use is smooth, low fire clay. The best is gritty, high fire clay. Between those is a spectrum of clays which will work according to how close they are to either end!

Hair: Horse hair is provided. You can also bring various hairs. Feathers also work well.

### Pit Firing:

Pipenburg works best to avoid cracks/damage- but it's a little rough for that satin smooth pit finish. I pit fire a lot of Deschutes White with Old Hickory which I am able to sand perfectly smooth with steel wool. There's a higher cracking rate but the smooth bright surface is often worth the risk, if you're able to make EVEN pots. (not necessarily thin, but even).

East Creek provides copper carbonate and some other various pit firing goodies. But you're welcome to bring whatever else you'd like for the pit including burnables, copper or cobalt compounds, wire or mesh metals, toothpaste, whatever. Note: banana peels are overrated.