



Tips for finding the right clay

Throwing or modelling?

The general rule is that smooth or very fine clay is used for throwing. For modelling or hand building, we advice fine to coarse clay.

Chamotte determines by the size of the chamotte grain and the percentage of chamotte in the clay the structure of the clay. Chamotte is like a building block. The bigger you want to build, the more or the larger the grain should be. For example, from very fine chamotte for small jewelry, to very coarse for monumental work.

Chamotte:

Smooth:	0.0 mm	throwing
Powder/very fine:	0.2 mm	throwing, pressure molding
Fine:	0.5 mm	modelling, throwing
Middle:	1.0 mm	modelling
Coarse:	2.0 mm	modelling
Very coarse:	> 2.0 mm	modelling

The size of the chamotte grain, if present, is always listed on the label of the clay. The standard percentage of chamotte is 25%. If this deviates, this is also mentioned.

Slibcasting?

There is special casting slab, that you can use for the molds. Casting slab is also available in variations. There's choice between earthenware, stoneware and even porcelain. There is also a choice of colour.

For the pressure molds we advise fine clay. For moldmaking, we advise the KK147. This clay is smooth to finish.

Earthenware or stoneware?

This is determined by the height of the temperature in which the clay can be fired. Earthenware can be fired to 1150 degrees, sometimes higher. From 1200 and up it's stoneware. The temperature is always mentioned on the clay label, because it differs per clay. Very important, do not fire the clay higher than the maximum temperature. If it's to high temperature, the clay will melt. This distorts the work.

Do you like your work to be frost resistant, than it had to be moisture proof and at least fired at 1150 if it's earthenware and 1220 and up for stoneware. The KK1795 is a coarse stoneware clay, specially prepared for outside.

Colour?

What colour you choose depends on what you desire. Available colours besides white, cream, red and black – are for example: concrete, grey, blue, yellow and with a speckle.

The colour of the glaze comes out the best with white or light clay. Coloured clay can sustain oxides that can give a different effect on the glazing.

Raku clay is always white. Everything that is not glazed, originally the white clay, turns black during the raku proces.

Porcelain

Porcelain is a separate chapter in the ceramics. It is the finest kind of ceramic, mostly white or translucent. It's high fired, from 1220 ° C degrees and up. Every porcelain has its own colour or hue. There's also porcelain for casting available.

Tips and advice

Clay is without an expiration date. Simply add some water, if the clay is a littlebit dryer, and let it rehydrate.

Making tests is always advisable. Clay shrinks during drying and shrinks even more during the firing. The higher the heat, the greater the shrinkage and the darker the colour is.

Clay is a material that can surprise you. The unique way of working, the environment, the kiln and also with the possible other work within the kiln (sympathy-heating). They all can have an effect on the end result.

Symbols to make it easier:



Especially for working with children. If the clay is not fired, we advise Eigen Merk (our Own Brand) fine K2000. If the work is fired, we recommend Eigen Merk coars, the K3000 or Silver sand clay, the K6000, is soft on the fingers.



For raku we recommend the K8000 Rakuvaria Extreem, K6000, KW474 and the KK129.



The KK1795 is a coarse stoneware clay, specially prepared for outdoor purposes.

Shrinkage and water absorption

Shrinkage and water absorption* of ceramics, we indicate as much as possible on our clay label by means of 'stickers'.



The water absorption indicates how much moisture is included in the piece/ceramics. Less than 2% absorption is considered waterproof. It is also said that it must be less than 0.5%. The lower the absorption, the better it is for your usable (qua mold and sweating).

* The data on shrinkage and absorption are provided by the suppliers, measured in their circumstances. Another kiln and other conditions could give a percentage deviation.





Clay facts

A gress clay is French stoneware clay. We have the KF100 smooth Gress. Not fired is the clay Grey. After firing it, it'll be cream till pink. Depending on the temperature.

Our Own Brand clay has a higher rate of quartz than the average clay. This makes it very suitable for many different glazes.

We have 4 black stoneware clays, the Nigra2005, the Nigra2002, the PRNI and the PRNM. For all black clays the rule is, it gets black when fired high. If you keep the temperature low, the clay stays brown.

The speckle of the speckle clay, is only developing when fired at high temperature.

The KW474 is used for monumental work, large floor tiles and Raku stoken.

Make from different kinds of clay, for example your leftovers, your own surprise clay. Knead well!

Chamotte can be added to clay for more power. Do you want to give more power to porcelain or very white clay, you use molochite.

For working with children, we recommend our Own Brand clay, "Eigen Merk klei", fine clay K2000, gross K3000 or silversand K6000. This is because they are beautiful, elastic clays, with good price ratio. The coarse clay may be less fun for sensitive fingertips, but the advantage is, that the children's work will be less quickly to break when fired in the kiln.

The K8000 Rakuvaria Extreem for Raku is an extremely strong clay. Shortley after creating the work it's ready for firing in to the raku kiln!



KF100
1150 °C

KW931
1100 °C

KW931
1250 °C

KK110
1250 °C

PRNI
1000 °C

PRNI
1150 °C

PRNI
1250 °C

PRNM
1000 °C

PRNM
1100 °C

NIGRA2002
1150 °C

NIGRA2002
1100 °C

NIGRA2002
1250 °C

NIGRA2005
1000 °C

NIGRA2005
1100 °C

NIGRA2005
1150 °C

NIGRA2005
1250 °C

PRNM
1250 °C