

Clay Quality Assurance

All clay bodies are carefully and stringently formulated, mixed, pugged and TESTED to assure proper performance, high quality, and consistency. These procedures apply to all of our stock formulations under the Laguna Label, The Miller Label, and the Axner Premium Clay Label.



- **Expertise**

We have a wealth of collective clay experience throughout the Laguna Clay Company. Laguna Clay Company president Bryan Vansell along with Clay Manager Matt Morris (Ohio) and Jon Pacini (California) comprise a body of experience with clay manufacturing which has become an excellent resource for Laguna Clay customers. Combined with the slip making and slip casting expertise of our glaze technician, Laguna formulates custom clays and slips for customers and pursues research to fulfill the ever changing tastes of the ceramists.

- **Formulations**

Our clay bodies have been formulated in a variety of different ways to perform extremely well for various different functions. In addition to the fact that they have withstood the test of time, they are also evaluated in scientific ways to assure outstanding performance. For example, we use a dilatometer in our lab which graphs expansion and contraction of clay bodies throughout the entire heating and cooling cycles of a firing. Among other things, this helps us to determine if the coefficient of expansion is compatible with common glazes that are used by art potters. It also helps us to determine the amount of crystobolite that is formed in a clay during the firing process which tells us how susceptible it is to thermal shock and if it is suitable for ovenware, for example.

- **Batching and Mixing Procedures**

Many years of practice and experience have honed this aspect down to a science. Each batch is carefully pulled and assigned a consecutive 5 digit batch number. The first digit designates which pug mill the batch will be made in, 1-4 California, 5-7 Ohio, 8 Florida. The next 4 digits are the sequence number starting with 0001 and ending 9999. A paper trail follows every batch of clay from the time the bags are stacked in the batching yard to the time the clay is shipped. Amounts of each material are logged into a form as well as the amount of water used per batch. The yield from any given batch is also recorded. Penetrometer readings are taken and recorded at the mixer stage and at the pugged stage to assure the correct consistency. A record of these readings are also kept.

- **Testing Procedures**

A 2 lb sample is taken from each batch of clay and marked with the batch number. Standard sized bars are made and stamped with the batch number. Each test bar is examined before and after being fired to measure deformation, shrinkage and warping. They are also visually tested for color and texture. Results are recorded before the clay is released for shipment

- **Our Commitment to You** Our goal is to offer you the best performing, highest quality, and most consistent clay that you will be able to find anywhere. The procedures and people that we have put in place makes this goal highly achievable and we are ready to prove it to you.

Our goal is to offer you the best products.

We are prepared to prove it to you.