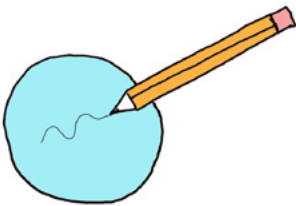


# WALTHAMSTOW CERAMICS



**1. Wash and dry hands.** Any grease on the ceramic (known as bisque-ware at this stage) might make it difficult for glaze to stick to the piece. So get clean and dry. Lovely jubbly.

**2. Think about what writing you might want on the ceramic.** Write text in pencil or just leave a big gap to decide later. I can write over your writing in your style or my own. You don't *need* writing, it would just be annoying for you if you painted the whole piece and then realised you wanted a message later! Doh.



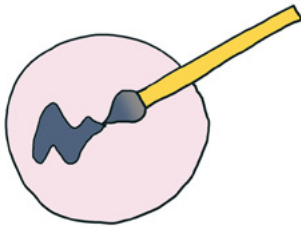
**3. Pencil lines** will disappear in the glazing process so you can draw your design before committing to paint. Keep pencil lines light to be on the safe side, I've never seen even a super-dark line stay but it's good practice to be gentle.

**4a. Handprints or footprints.** For babies it can be tricky to get a handprint: if under 18 months then stick to a footprint - unless you are confident! Best done with two people, one to hold baby and one to take the print. It's not difficult at all especially if your child/ baby is fed and content. Make it playful and you might even get enthusiastic giggles. Have a wipe ready to clean up after.

First practice the instructions below without paint, placing the hand or foot on the item to get a feel for what you need to do, and even try a doing a few prints on paper first. When ready paint onto a sponge and use the sponge to cover the hand or foot in the paint provided (known as underglaze). Remember to get those toes or fingertips covered then, starting with the heel or bottom of the palm, firmly place and hold the hand or foot onto the plate. Put a little pressure on the toes/ fingers to get the whole print and lift off in one go. Try to do it confidently and quickly. If decorating a bauble start with the heel and roll the foot around keeping the bauble steady to avoid slipping.

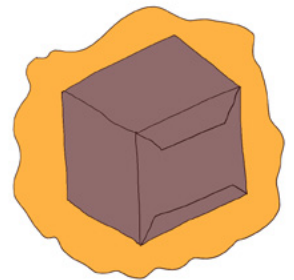


If you miss a toe then you can paint a cheat one in! You can carefully clean up any messy bits with a damp sponge or damp paintbrush. If you think it's a disaster quickly wash the plate and start again when thoroughly air dried. There may be some residual paint marks if you do this but not too noticeable. Take a look at this [YouTube video](#).



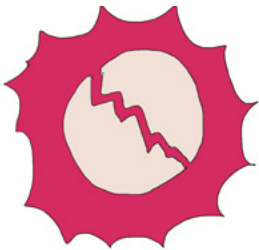
**4b. Painting and decoration.** If not doing handprints or footprints then just get painting! Or get creative with handprints/ footprints and decorate them too. Underglaze will be brighter when fired. One stroke will be quite light, and 3 strokes will be a block colour. Unpainted areas will stay white. See paint colour chart for more info. When finished wait to dry completely before packing. Don't forget - three strokes of paint for solid coverage.

**5. Packing:** Make sure all ceramics are perfectly dry, we need to make sure there are no wet items in the box so double check those sponges in case they are damp. I recommend carefully wrapping kitchen towel around each ceramic item with a bit of sticky tape to keep it in place, this helps to stop any rubbing or scratches. Reuse the cardboard to separate and protect the pots.



Please send all the kit back to me including any left over paint and paint pots. The paint (underglaze) can only be used on fired ceramics so it is unlikely to be useful for other craft projects.

Drop the kits off in my porch at 80 Gloucester Road E17 6AE. Please let me know in advance so I know which kits I am expecting that day. When the items are fired I will let you know to arrange collection/delivery.



**6. Breakages.** The ceramics you receive are known as bisque ware which have been fired once and are fairly sturdy but accidents happen.

- If a pot arrives to you broken let me know and I will get a new one to you ASAP.
- In the extremely rare event that your ceramic breaks during the firing process, I will get you a new set ASAP and put your goods in the next available firing slot.
- If you break an item, do let me know and I will provide a replacement for small charge of £3

**7. Have fun:** Really this is the most important bit, relax and enjoy the process of painting. I'm on hand to help if you have questions.