

PREPARED CLAYS

WHICH CLAY TO USE?

There are numerous decisions to make in selecting the right clay. The Clay Analysis Sheet included in this folder is a good place to start. It will help to select a clay which offers the right temperature and colour for oxidation or reduction, the right texture (amount, if any, of grog or sand), the right hardness, the right shrinkage, absorption and thermal expansion. Some or all of these factors may be important to you and the project you are creating. If you need help to make your decision, call our technical team on 01782 271200 or e-mail sales@valentineclays.co.uk

TEXTURE - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Texture impacts the feel, the look and the suitability of a clay for each different project. As a general rule, clays containing coarse sand and grog are generally best for medium to large pottery or sculpture. Smooth clays or porcelains are recommended for smaller, finer work; clays containing fine mesh grog or sand are best for work falling between the other two. As far as "feel" and "look" are concerned, try a sample of one of our clays to assess its suitability.

CLAY HARDNESS

All Valentine clays are produced to a medium consistency of 6.5 - 7.5 as measured by a Penetrometer: (clay hardness tester)

Clay Hardness Rating

Description	Hardness
Extra Soft	5.0 - 5.5
Soft	5.5 - 6.5
Medium	6.5 - 7.5
Firm	8.0 - 9.0

WARRANTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We take our responsibility to you very seriously. Every batch of pugged clay, liquid slip or dry casting body is tested and approved prior to being shipped from our factory. While our testing ensures that our products meet our standards, it does not guarantee performance in your specific application. Only by thoroughly testing can you guarantee that the materials you buy are truly suitable for your use and your specific application. *There is simply no substitute for your testing and approval.*

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTIES

The following is made in lieu of all warranties, expressed or implied. Valentine Clays' only obligation shall be to replace such quantity of product proven to be defective by standard and accepted test methods for the Ceramic Industry. Valentine Clays' shall not be liable for any injury, loss or damage, direct or consequential, arising out of the use or the inability to use the product. There is no warranty for merchantability or fitness for purpose of the product.

Before using, the user shall determine the suitability of the product for his or her intended use and the user assumes all risk and liability whatsoever in connection therewith.

CUSTOM CLAY FORMULAS AND SPECIAL ORDER CLAYS (MOIST OR DRY)

CUSTOMER FORMULATED CLAYS

We offer custom mixing, moist or dry, of your formula on condition the chosen materials are available in dry condition. To prevent any misunderstanding, your formula should be submitted in writing. All customer formulas are kept in confidence and will not be made for any other party without your permission. If required a confidentiality agreement will be made available. We have a large selection of raw materials which are listed elsewhere in this folder. If your formula requires a material we do not carry, we can recommend a suitable substitute, or you may supply the material from a different source. In either case, we cannot accept responsibility for its successful use in the formula. There are some restrictions on materials we are unable to run through our moist clay equipment; these include some stains, extremely coarse grogs, and so on.

VALENTINE CLAYS' FORMULAS

Our laboratory will assist and advise you in the formulation of clays, or we will modify Valentine Clays stock clay formulas to meet your specific requirements. (All such formulas remain the property of Valentine Clays Ltd.)

VALENTINE CLAYS' STOCK CLAYS - SPECIAL CONSISTENCY

You may Special Order any Valentine Clays' stock clay made to your preferred hardness (1000 Kgs minimum). Please allow up to 4 weeks for production.

ORDERING CUSTOM AND SPECIAL ORDER CLAYS

MINIMUM ORDER 1000 Kgs batches. Usually a moist clay formula makes slightly more or less than 1000 Kgs. You will be shipped and billed for actual weight produced. Smaller special orders for dry clay are available upon request.

CONSISTENCY We will pug your moist clay as close as possible to the hardness you specify.

ORDER TIME Custom and special order clays need to be properly integrated into our production schedule. Please allow up to 4 weeks for production of your special order.

PACKAGING Prepared clays are packaged in 12.5Kg plastic bags. Dry clays are packaged in 12.5 - 25Kg plastic sacks. Any special packaging requests must accompany the order and may be subject to an additional charge.

PRICES The price quoted for your clay formula is based on the current cost of raw materials. Pricing will be adjusted accordingly.