

APPENDIX 4 — LOADING TIPS

- **BALANCE THE LOAD**

When planning how to load your kiln, keep in mind that the center of the kiln is generally the hottest. Therefore, you will want to distribute the load with the larger, thicker pieces towards the middle and the smaller, thinner pieces towards the top and bottom.

- **ALLOW THE KILN TO BREATHE**

Many studios work with glazes that require oxygen to develop properly. Provide enough space between items to allow them to “breathe.” Using half shelves with a .25 inch space gap in the middle will also help increase the flow of oxygen within the kiln chamber, especially when used in combination with an EnviroVent

- **ALLOW FOR PROPER CLEARANCES**

Kilns lose most of their heat from the lid and the slab. Ideally, there should be at least two inches of space between the lid and the closest piece. The first shelf should be posted up one inch from the bottom slab.

- **NOTHING DIRECTLY UNDER THE ENVIROVENT HOLES**

Holes drilled in the lids of the kiln that have EnviroVents allow air to be drawn into the kiln chamber. If a piece of ware is sitting directly under one of these holes, it could leave a spot in the glaze. If it is not possible to cap the load with a shelf, leave a five inch radius on the shelf directly below each hole.

- **DO NOT RUSH**

Take the time to properly load and fire the kiln. Check each piece to insure that too much glaze or unsteady placement will not cause disaster during the firing. A few extra minutes can save you a lot of frustration.

