

CORK CLAY INSTRUCTION SHEET

CHARACTERISTICS

Cork Clay comes from Japan and is distributed through the Aida instructors and dealers. It is easily modelled into any shape and makes an excellent internal structure for Art Clay™ Silver.

DIRECTIONS

SHAPING AND DRYING

Make your shapes for beads or sculpture and completely dry the cork overnight..

If the cork is moist and you fire it inside an Art Clay Silver piece, the heat of the firing may turn the moisture into steam. The escaping steam may develop enough pressure to damage the Art Clay Silver.

When covering the cork armature with Art Clay Silver, leave some vent holes for firing. You can fill/repair vent holes with additional Art Clay Silver or oil paste in a second firing.

After drying, the cork may be filed, drilled, sanded and otherwise finished to enhance and promote the finishing process.

FIRING

Art Clay Silver that is fired with cork clay must be fired at the lower temperatures that are listed for each product: 650 C for 30 minutes for Art Clay Silver 650. This is especially important if a significant amount of cork clay is used in the mould.

At higher firing temperatures, the burning cork may cause the air in the kiln to superheat, raising the internal temperature near or to the silver's melting point. This may result in damaged or distorted pieces.

Irregular forms should be supported with a soft fibre blanket

HINTS

Keep all unused portions of the cork clay tightly wrapped. If it dries, it cannot be remoistened.

Store at room temperature. If you see dark spots develop (mildew), this will not affect the use of the clay. These spots will burn off in the firing.

Do not add water to the cork clay. If you have two pieces of cork clay to join together, you can moisten the pieces in the area where they will join. Usually pressure and the moisture in the cork clay is sufficient to join the pieces.

Cork clay produces smoke as it burns away. Please fire in a well-ventilated room. If you see smoke escaping from the kiln, this is normal. **DO NOT OPEN THE KILN DOOR.** This will provide oxygen to the fire and possibly cause a flash fire, endangering anyone standing in front of the kiln.

A small amount of green ash residue will be in your piece. This can be removed with running water after the piece is cool.

HAVE FUN with this product, as an internal sculptural structure, Cork Clay saves you hours of time in making hollow forms.