

# Understanding Ceramic Clays

This playbook describes the different types of ceramic clay bodies, detailing their properties, and what they are best used for in the realm of ceramics.

## Step 1: **Clay Types**

Identify and research the primary types of clay bodies used in ceramics, such as earthenware, stoneware, porcelain, and ball clays.

## Step 2: **Properties**

Examine the unique properties of each clay type. Consider aspects such as temperature range for firing, color after firing, texture, plasticity, and porosity.

## Step 3: **Applications**

Explore suitable applications for each type of clay. Determine which clay is best for sculpting, wheel-throwing, hand-building, or detailed work.

## Step 4: **Preparation**

Learn about the necessary preparation for each clay body, like wedging to remove air bubbles and achieve a uniform consistency.

## Step 5: **Firing**

Understand the specific firing temperatures and methods for each type of clay to optimize the finished product's durability and appearance.

## **General Notes**

### **Safety**

Always follow safety guidelines when handling and firing ceramic materials, including wearing protective gear and using well-ventilated areas.

### **Testing**

Before committing to a large project, test small samples of clay to see how they behave through the preparation, shaping, and firing processes.