# Electric Kiln Firing

This playbook provides a step-by-step guide on the basic process of firing ceramics in an electric kiln, focusing on essential aspects of temperature control and timing.

### Step 1: Preparation

Ensure the ceramics are bone dry, the kiln is clear of any obstructions, and the kiln shelves are properly arranged. Verify that the kiln's power supply corresponds to its voltage requirements and that the kiln sitter or electronic controller is functioning correctly.

### Step 2: Loading

Carefully load the ceramics onto the kiln shelves, allowing for adequate space between pieces to enable proper heat circulation. Ensure the wares do not touch the kiln walls or elements.

### Step 3: Candling

Perform a preheat cycle, known as 'candling', at a low temperature for several hours to ensure any residual moisture in the wares evaporates, preventing cracks or explosions.

### Step 4: Bisque Firing

Begin bisque firing, initially on low, then gradually increase to medium and high over several hours following the kiln manufacturer's schedule, until the desired bisque temperature is reached.

### Step 5: Cooling

Once the target temperature is achieved and maintained for the appropriate soak time, allow the kiln to slowly cool down. Avoid opening the lid or door until the temperature drops to avoid thermal shock.

### Step 6: Glazing

After the wares are bisque fired and fully cooled, apply glaze as desired. Ensure the wares are clean and dust-free before applying the glaze to achieve the best results.

### Step 7: Glaze Firing

Load the glazed wares into the kiln, again ensuring they do not touch. Repeat the gradual heating process, but this time to the specific temperatures required for maturing the glazes.

### Step 8: Unloading

When the kiln has cooled completely to room temperature, it is safe to open the lid and remove the fired ceramics. Use caution as pieces may still be fragile.

## General Notes

### Kiln Safety

Always adhere to kiln safety guidelines, such as using protective eyewear, ensuring good ventilation, maintaining a safe area around the kiln, and not leaving the kiln unattended during critical phases of firing.