



Batt Wash

Anything flat in ceramics is traditionally called a batt. Batt wash is made from alumina and china clay.

It should be spread on kiln shelves or batts in an even layer, to ensure the ware being fired remains flat. The aim is to offer resilience to any spilt glaze, protecting the shelf.

Applying Batt Wash

Mix the white powdered batt wash with water until you have a smooth paste, similar to double cream consistency. Spread this paste evenly over the shelf with a paint brush using even strokes in one direction, leave to dry and recoat using brush strokes at 90° to the first coat. The idea being to get a good, regular, even coat of white covering the surface of the shelf.

Glaze Spills

Should glaze be applied too thickly, the kiln fired to too high a temperature or soaked at temperature for too long, then the glaze can run down the piece and off onto the shelf or batt.

Removing Glaze Spills

Safety First. The spill can or may be very sharp, do not be tempted to run your hand over the shelf or batts. Glaze is glass.

If the piece is stuck or melted on to the shelf, then it can be 'tricky' to separate depending on how bad the glaze spill is. Sometimes it can be knocked off gently, sometimes it's best to apply some pressure until it 'gives', sometimes it can be hammered off and sometimes it's best to throw it all in the bin!

If you manage to separate the piece from the shelf and keep the piece and shelf whole, with just a bit of glaze on the shelf, then with goggles and gloves on, take a hammer and chisel and gently knock the spillage off. The previously applied batt wash should allow easier removal of the glaze spill. Following the removal of the glaze, there will be a small 'scar' on the shelf. This 'scar' should be repaired with a bit more batt wash, returning the shelf to whole and flat.

Do not just paint another layer of batt wash over the glaze spill, as the glaze will melt again on subsequent firings.