

OSHA SAFETY GUIDE FOR PAINT YOUR OWN POTTERY STUDIOS



1. Why OSHA Compliance Matters

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets federal standards to ensure safe and healthy working environments. PYOP studios—though creative and fun—include materials, equipment, and activities that may pose health risks if not properly managed.

2. Key OSHA Focus Areas for PYOP Studios

Hazard Communication

- Maintain Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all chemicals, glazes, paints, and kiln washes.
- Clearly label all containers with product names and hazard warnings.
- Train employees on how to read and understand SDSs and chemical labels.
- Post your Hazard Communication Plan where employees can access it.

Dust Control

- Use wet mopping or HEPA-filter vacuums for cleaning—never dry sweeping.
- Sanding bisque or cleaning up dry glaze creates airborne dust (e.g., silica) that can cause respiratory issues.
- Avoid finger-sanding or grinding in customer areas. Staff should wear a respirator mask when sanding glaze.
- Clean regularly around kilns, glaze areas, and dry storage zones.

Kiln Room Safety

- Keep kilns in well-ventilated rooms with limited access.
- Post “Hot Kiln” signage and restrict access to authorized staff only.
- Train staff on kiln use, including safe loading/unloading procedures.
- Store flammable materials far from kilns.
- Use proper PPE (heat-resistant gloves, eye protection) when working with kilns.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Provide and encourage the use of:
 - Gloves for handling chemicals
 - Dust masks or respirators if sanding or cleaning dry glaze
 - Eye protection during grinding or splatter-prone tasks

Slip, Trip & Fall Prevention

- Keep walkways clear and dry.
- Clean spills immediately.
- Use non-slip mats in high-traffic or glaze areas.
- Secure cords or equipment that could pose tripping hazards.

Emergency Procedures

- Keep first aid kits fully stocked and visible.
- Train staff in basic first aid and emergency response (CPR, burns, etc.).
- Post evacuation maps and emergency contacts.
- Install fire extinguishers near kiln areas and train staff in their use.

3. Employee Safety Training

- Provide documented training upon hiring and annually thereafter.
- Topics should include:
 - Chemical handling and labeling
 - Dust awareness and clean-up protocols
 - Kiln operation and maintenance
 - Emergency evacuation procedures
- Keep signed records of all training.

4. OSHA Poster & Documentation

- Display the official OSHA “It’s the Law” poster in a visible staff area.
- Maintain:
 - Injury and illness logs (OSHA Form 300, if applicable)
 - SDS binders
 - Records of employee training and inspections

5. Voluntary OSHA Consultations

Consider contacting OSHA’s free On-Site Consultation Program, which helps small businesses identify hazards without issuing citations or penalties.

Learn more: www.osha.gov/consultation

6. Studio-Specific Considerations

- Designate separate zones for glazing, kiln use, and customer activity.
- Do not allow food in work areas where bisque, glaze, or cleaning chemicals are handled.
- Keep children and customers away from work areas with potential hazards.

7. CCSA Recommendations

- Perform monthly studio safety checks using a checklist.
- Join the CCSA Safety Workshop or request a member peer review.
- Regularly update your staff handbook with new policies and procedures.

Quick Reference Checklist

Requirement	Complete?
SDS book updated and accessible	☐
PPE available and in use	☐
Kiln safety protocols in place	☐
Glaze and chemical labels are clear	☐
Employees trained and documented	☐
OSHA poster displayed	☐
Emergency contacts posted	☐
Cleaning schedule implemented	☐

Helpful Resources

- www.ccsaonline.com – Technical & Safety Tools
- www.osha.gov – OSHA Regulations & Posters
- www.epa.gov – Environmental Safety & Compliance
- www.maycocolors.com – Glaze and Material Safety

For questions or additional support, contact the CCSA team. We're here to help you maintain a safe, creative, and compliant studio environment!