

Marbleizing Technique



A second use of China Silk "Stuff" is to change the buoyancy of the porcelain to allow you to marbleize with several colors. All porcelain has more buoyancy than earthenware does and this buoyancy can be changed even more by the addition of Stuff.

Select the various colors you want to use and pour a small amount (approximately 1/4 cup) of each into a small container. Add 2 teaspoons of Stuff to each color and mix thoroughly. The amount of Stuff to use is determined by how thin your porcelain is. The thinner the slip the more Stuff will be needed.

Next pour enough white porcelain into a large bowl or pitcher to pour whatever mold you are going to marbleize. Using a teaspoon or tablespoon gently drop small amounts of the colored porcelain into the white. You will notice that they will float to the top. This is the change in buoyancy. You may stir gently or simply pour with them as they are. When you dump the mold, the various colors will still not be mixed together completely because of this buoyancy change. You may add more color or another color and continue until you have used up all the slip in your pitcher.

When you clean a piece of marbled greenware you can clean as deeply as you need to remove the seam. The marbling goes all the way through the piece. The pattern on the surface might change but the marbling does not disappear. This technique is terrific for producing a marble look by using brown and gray and pouring things like chess sets, or using pastel colors and pouring unique Easter eggs.