

When Clay and Glazes **FREEZE**



First: Don't Panic!

The freeze & thaw cycle is part of the geological processes that helped create the raw materials that potters use. Let them thaw, and here's what you need to know

GLAZES: Once thawed, stir your glaze well. NO harm has come to your glaze. The fired qualities of the glaze remain intact. Sometimes the organic gums (that suspend particles and promote ease in brushing) may lose their potency. Should this occur, you may want to adjust your glaze with a solution of CMC gum. You can mix this yourself, though it does require patience, or use Amaco's "Gum Solution" (item #41371N). A pint of this solution costs \$8.00. It's a handy solution to have in your studio!

CLAY: Once thawed, your clay will need to be wedged. Your clay will also be wetter than it was before it was frozen. Freezing pulls more of the chemically bound water out of the materials. This water, along with the water added in making the clay, forms crystals when frozen. These crystals form open spaces in the clay -- rendering that "de-aired" quality null. Your clay will have lost the de-aired quality and have additional moisture, but otherwise it will function. If you want to dry it out a bit, pull off the bags over night and then wedge before using. You're good to go!