



Tip Sheet for Buying Pottery Clay as a Beginner

Stoneware is the best pottery clay for beginners because.....

- It is plastic and holds its shape.
- If it has added grog this will strengthen it and make it even more
- It is tough and non-porous when fired.

Earthenware clay is good for beginners because.....

- It is very plastic and holds its shape.
- Like stoneware, if you add grog, this makes it even more workable.

However...

- It is still porous once fired. If you want to make a vessel that holds liquid, like a cup or vase, you will need to glaze earthenware seal it.
- Even when glazed and sealed, earthenware chips relatively easily.

Porcelain is not the best pottery clay for beginners because....

- It is tricky to throw, it become soft quickly and collapses easily.
- Even with added grog, it can be temperamental and difficult to control.
- Although some potters like to learn using porcelain, it is twice as expensive as other clays. So, even if you are up for the challenge of learning with porcelain, it is a costly clay for beginners.

Grog is a beginners friend because....

- It makes clay more workable and stronger.
- It reduces the amount clay shrinks and can prevent cracking during drying and firing.

Important!

- Grog, is helpful in stoneware and earthenware for beginners. However, if you are wheel throwing your clay then you will need a clay with a soft fine grog.
- Course hard grog is ok for hand building and modeling, but is tough on the hands when throwing.