

ClayPeople Silicon Carbide Kiln Shelves – User Guide

Thank you and congratulations on investing in silicon carbide kiln shelves. This document covers both oxide-bonded (coarse) and nitride-bonded (smooth) kiln shelves. Please read it carefully and follow the instructions.

Dry Shelves Before Firing

- Kiln shelves can absorb moisture during transportation and storage, which can cause cracks or explosions if not dried properly and exposed to temperatures of 212°F (100°C). Load all shelves into kiln normally and heat all shelves for 6 hours at 194°F (90°C) with a 1" post between shelves before using or anytime shelves get wet.

Handling & Use

- Always use exactly 3 posts on each shelf (**SEE DIAGRAM BELOW**).
- Avoid knocking shelves during handling, loading, and unloading shelves to prevent cracking.
- **NEVER** use a combination of full and half shelves.
- Slow and medium firing cycles are recommended for silicone carbide shelves. Do not heat or cool more than 200°F per hour. **NEVER CRASH COOL, open lid or peeps, or allow air in kiln.**
- Place shelves away from burner ports, fireboxes, stoking slots and bag walls.
- **Electrical Safety** – Silicon carbide can conduct electricity; ensure shelves do not come in contact with any heating elements in electric kilns to prevent short circuits and the risk of electrical shock. Never load or unload a kiln that is turned on.
- We recommend a (1") gap between the edge of the shelves and the kiln walls and floor.
- Kiln wash can be applied to help prevent plucking with high silica clay bodies. Kiln wash should be measured by volume (50% alumina hydrate, 25% kaolin, and 25% glomax) and applied in thin coats.

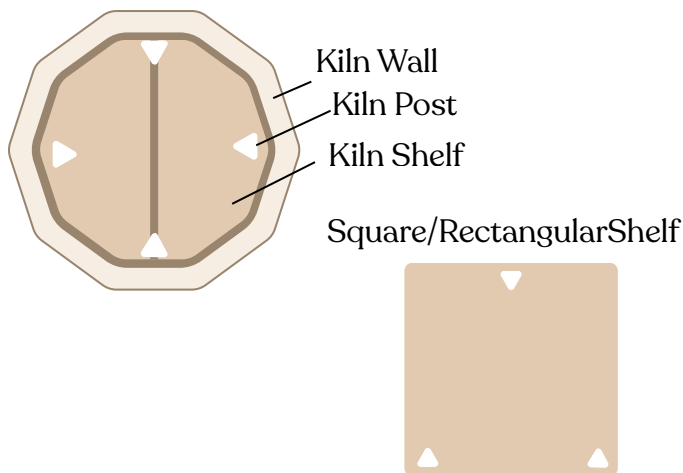
Storage

- Shelves should always be stored on their side. Never lie shelves down flat and never stack shelves.
- Storage areas should be dry and off concrete surfaces.
- Always store shelves above freezing temperatures, as frost damage can occur.

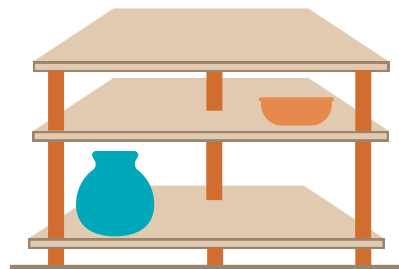
Cleaning

- Nitride-bonded silicon carbide shelves will develop a thin, glassy coating during use; this is normal and not detrimental.
- Shelves can be cleaned of glaze drips by using a grinding brick or chisel (safety equipment and PPE must be used).

Overhead View



Shelf Side View



Proper Storage

