Frit Slurry Basics

We have developed an interesting and fun way to blend frit colors. With a splash of water mixed with powdered frit you can create a “slurry” and use various blending techniques to yield amazing results!

**Creating the frit slurries**

When working with powdered frits, it is advisable to wear a respirator mask to avoid inhaling particulates. Place a small amount (the amount of frit required will vary depending on the area to be covered) of a given color of powdered frit into a small mixing cup. Add enough water to the frit in the container to just cover the frit with water. We find that using a spray bottle to spritz water into the frit until the frit is just covered with water is a great way to accurately add the water to the powdered frit (image 1). Mix the powder frit and water together to a pancake-batter-like consistency. Each color of frit should be mixed in a separate container. Opaque and/or transparent frit powders can be used in frit slurry projects.

**Using frit slurries on sheet glass**

The slurries can be applied to transparent or opaque sheet glass. The sheet glass used can be of single (3 mm) or double thickness (6mm). The sheet glass and the frit must be of the same COE. Powdered frit will work best to create a smooth and consistent slurry. Fine and medium grain frit pieces can be added here and there before firing to create texture. To begin adding the slurry to the sheet glass, place the sheet glass on a level surface. Begin adding the various frit slurries to the glass (image 2, 3, 4) and gently shake the sheet glass from side to side to even out and spread the slurries (image 7). If desired, use a needle tool or a spoon handle or knife to pull one color into the other (image 5 & 6). A endless variety of patterns and color combinations are available.

[Click here for a short video on applying the slurry to the glass.]

**Firing the glass**

After the frit slurry has been applied to the sheet glass, allow the water to evaporate from the powdered frit, you can do so by leaving the slurry in a warm area for a couple of hours (image 9). When fusing a slurry to glass that is two layers thick (6mm) you can use a standard full fusing schedule that has been shown to work with good results in the kiln you will be using. If fusing on a single layer of sheet glass, a contour or tack firing schedule should be used. After the glass is fired flat in this manner, it can be slumped on a mold using standard slumping procedures.

In many of the Creative Paradise tutorials that feature the frit slurry process, an option and firing schedule is given to fire the glass on the slump mold in a “one and done” firing process. If you decide to use this process it is really important that you have familiarity with the kiln that is going to be used. ([Please click here to see “Firing Notes”](#)). It is also possible to elect to fuse the slurry to the glass first and then slump in the mold in all cases.