

Kiln Corner

Coating the Firebrick Kiln Lid

by Arnold Howard

Photography Courtesy of Paragon Industries, L.P.

Though Arnold Howard works for Paragon Industries, L.P., the information here applies to all brands of glass kilns. Feel free to send him questions for this column no matter what brand of kiln you own.

Is it normal for a firebrick kiln lid to flake?

No. If the lid flakes, the coating is too thick. The coating should appear to have disappeared after the first firing.

Before you coat a kiln lid, does the old coating have to be sanded off? How long does the new lid coating last?

If the old coating is loose, then it must be sanded off before applying the new coating. Loose coating looks like the network of cracks in a dried mud puddle and form when the coating is too thick. A thin lid coating should last for several years.

What does one use to coat the kiln lid? Do you have any tips for avoiding the element coils in the lid?

I recommend Paragon's Liquid Kiln Coating, which is a mixture of kiln cement, fine brick dust, a gumming agent, and water. Other kiln manufacturers have similar products. Shake the container, pour some of the coating into a bowl, and stir the coating just before you apply it to the firebrick lid.

Use a large, soft sponge to apply the coating. First moisten the sponge with water, then squeeze out the excess. Dip the sponge into the bowl of kiln coating and wipe the coating over the lid surface. The coating should be thin enough so that you can still see the brick seams underneath.

Do not let excess coating run into the element grooves. If the coating drips along the edges of the grooves, remove the excess coating by wiping a cotton swab or rag along the groove.

Is it okay to apply kiln wash to the lid of my glass kiln?

Please do not apply kiln wash to the lid. Kiln wash protects the firebrick bottom and shelves from melted glass. When the melted glass is removed from a shelf, the kiln wash comes off with it. Since the kiln wash is designed to flake off easily, it can fall into the glass below when coated onto the lid. Kiln coating is an entirely different product from kiln wash, though in liquid form they look the same.

Can you use Liquid Kiln Coating on shelves instead of the powdered kiln wash?

No. Liquid Kiln Coating should not be applied to the shelves. The coating would peel off with the first firing. Instead, use kiln wash or glass separator.



Use a large sponge to apply a thin coating to the firebrick lid.



The coating on this lid has cracked because the coating is too thick.

Arnold Howard writes instruction manuals and advertisements for Paragon Industries, L.P. His hobbies are glass fusing and karate. He also enjoys studying history and watching classic movies. You can reach Arnold at ahoward@paragonweb.com with questions for future columns. Sign up for his kiln newsletter at www.paragonweb.com.



© Copyright 2014 by The Flow.
All rights reserved.