



## What's worth knowing about BOTZ

### How many times over should I apply BOTZ brush-on glazes?

Normally twice or three times unless anything else is written on the jar (directly below the article number on the label). For example, both transparent glazes (9102 and 9106) and both crackle glazes (9351 and 9352) are only applied once undiluted or once or twice slightly diluted. Rather apply three coats of red colours. To improve application, BOTZ brush-on glazes can easily be diluted with some water.

### How long do BOTZ brush-on glazes keep?

On average 2 - 3 years after buying them from the dealer, some also considerably longer. Good storage conditions, i.e. no significant temperature fluctuation (no frost, no heat) extend storage time. You can stir thickened glazes with water to make them spreadable again.

**Tip:** clean the rim of the jar after use, run a little water into the jar and only mix it in when you next use it (or maybe stretch cling film over the edge of the lid).

### How high should biscuit firing be?

Initial firing (biscuit firing) was traditionally between 850°C and 900°C. Porous biscuit ware was important for clay glazes so that the mixed clay glaze remained adhered to the biscuit ware. However, BOTZ brush-on glazes are easily applied to higher fired products because they incorporate an adhesive which enables the glaze to stick firmly. The advantage of a **biscuit temperature of approx. 950°C** is that the initial clay process is complete to a large extent and the glaze is not "disturbed" by clay gases, i.e. there are fewer bubbles and craters during the second firing.

### Can I mix different BOTZ brush-on glazes?

You can achieve very attractive results if you apply a second glaze on another glaze. Mixing the glazes into each other in the earthenware range will not yield exciting results with all of them. Opaque glazes without effects are very suitable for this approach (e.g. the matt glazes 9107, 9108, 9487-9491 and 9612) and especially also BOTZ stoneware (compare the information under stoneware tips in our current catalogue).

### Red isn't really red, gold honestly not gold. What's up?

Red and golden tones in ceramics are often sensitive. BOTZ red tones (9601 - 9605) and BOTZ gold (9541) are extremely stable if you observe the 3 "rules of conduct":



1) Apply thick, 2) Fire at low temperatures (i.e. up to 1040°C, 3) Allow oxygen to enter the kiln and do not pack too tightly into the kiln, thus enabling good air circulation. For Lava (9606) and Coral (9607), you can fire at higher temperatures (ideally 1050°C), however you must observe the oxygen supply. White rims are part of the appearance for these glazes, 9611 Lackrot is a highly non-sensitive red.

### **Can I glaze over glazes which have already been fired?**

That normally works very well, particularly if you have applied them too thinly and wish to re-apply the same glaze. Naturally the drying period on fired glazes is longer than on unglazed biscuit ware. If you wish to apply a different colour over a fired glaze, the result cannot really be predicted, however it can often be exciting. For good adhesion you can reheat the fired ceramics to 60 – 100°C before re-glazing it.

### **Some BOTZ glazes smell when fired, what can I do to avoid this?**

It is very important to know that all firing of ceramics, i.e. also biscuit firing emits gases which are detrimental to health. You should dissipate these gases with an exhaust vent installation (e.g. under [www.kerablu.de](http://www.kerablu.de)) or ensure good air circulation and ventilation in the firing room and as far as possible not work in the firing room during the firing process. The smell which develops with BOTZ glazes and is sometimes strong (approx. from 200 – 300°C) is not more dangerous than odourless fired glazes.

Use it as information that better ventilation is needed. The unpleasant odours arising during firing become less if you let the glazes dry very well before firing.

### **Are BOTZ brush-on glazes “food-safe”?**

“Food-safe” is not a term we use in ceramics. It is important not to use any leaded and if possible fully non-toxic glazes for tableware. Some glazes are not acid-resistant, i.e. contents of the fired glaze can be released when in contact with mild acids. Although all BOTZ brush-on glazes are non-toxic, we recommend for safety’s sake that you only use the glazes which are especially resistant for tableware and marked as “recommended for tableware” with the pictogram in the catalogue. For example, effect glazes or matt glazes are not recommended for hygienic reasons because leftovers could be deposited there.

### **Is there an optimum firing curve for BOTZ brush-on glazes?**

BOTZ brush-on glazes (earthenware) can mostly be fired very well as regulated by pre-programmed firing curves, they do not require a firing curve which needs to be entered specially. If you set it yourself: heat up to approx. 600°C with some 150°C per hour, then full load up to the highest temperature 1020 – 1060°C with a soaking time of 10 – 20 min.



All the samples in the catalogue have been fired at 1050°C with a 15 min soak (except red and gold). Please observe that the kiln often fires at higher temperatures in the upper area than in the lower area.

Stoneware glazes must be fired with the same heating up speed up to 1220 – 1280°C with a soaking time of 10 – 30 min. Here, an end temperature of 1250°C is ideal.

### **Can I order directly from you?**

Sales of BOTZ brush-on glazes are made exclusively via specialised dealers for ceramics requirements, handcraft shops and mail-order. We are happy to provide you with the name of a local dealer or you can take a look on our website [www.botz-glasuren.de](http://www.botz-glasuren.de) under the category: Are you looking for a specialised dealer? If desired, we are happy to post you our current catalogue. We also look forward to welcoming you on Facebook or our YouTube channel “The joy of ceramics” ☺.

### **Are BOTZ brush-on glazes “frostproof”?**

Frost-proofness is not primarily determined by the glaze, but by the clay. If the clay is “vitrified”, i.e. impermeable, and cannot absorb any water no longer, it is winter-hardy. Please ask your clay supplier the vitrifying temperature of your clay.

### **Are there safety data sheets for BOTZ brush-on glazes?**

Please feel free to ask us. We will be more than happy to send you the safety data sheets you need by E-mail.

### **My glaze has run off strongly during firing, what is the reason?**

We have some glazes in our range which are intended to run (please refer to the pictograms in the catalogue), if so please glaze the lower area of your object very thinly. However, if other glazes also run off, the cause may well be that they have been applied too thickly or the temperature is too high. It may be a good idea to check the actual temperature the kiln reaches using Seger cones (or Orton cones). We recommend protecting the kiln plate with a batt wash (e.g. BOTZ batt wash art. no. 90108)

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