

Renter Overview

For the cost of the monthly rent, the renter has full use of the studio from the first day of the rental month through the last, except for when classes or workshops are in session.. Renters may use the wheels, wedging table, reclaim bats, sink, glaze area, common tools, slip buckets, plaster and wooden bats in the renter area. The slab roller may be used also, under two conditions: 1) the renter must have had a lesson from a member on how to use it. Renters may not use the pug mills due to liability concerns. Renters may come in to glaze their bisqued work eafter the rental month is over if their work is not all bisqued by the end of their rental month. Renters may work at any time of the day or night except when classes are held. Renters acquire a studio key upon making a deposit.

Renters have the right to ask for assistance in understanding studio procedures or in using studio equipment. Renters are welcome to make suggestions about studio procedures.

Rental Procedures

Once a person is renting, she/he has the right to at least three months of renting. After three months, if there is someone on the waiting list, the longest renting person will be asked to give up her/his rental to the new person. If there is no competition for space, a renter in good standing may rent indefinitely.

The renters' area is rented to a maximum of eight persons at any given time. Each renter has a shelf area for her/his work. When there is competition for use of the renter wheels (which is infrequent), the renters are expected to work out the situation among themselves or to ask members for assistance. A cooperative attitude is a must in the studio. Renters must be clear and confident about stating their needs and caring and cooperating about others' needs.

Renter Responsibilities

Renters must be capable of working independently with clay, and understand the nature of clay, glazes and firing enough to use the materials and equipment responsibly without supervision.

Renters must fill out an information form at the beginning of the rental period. Keys must be returned at the end of the rental period.

Renters are responsible for paying their fees to the studio. Renters who do not pay their fees by the first of the month of their rental month may lose their right to rent. Renters are responsible for letting the renter coordinator know at least 2 weeks before the beginning of the month if they do NOT wish to continue renting. Renters who do not clearly communicate their intentions could find themselves either paying for an extra month or losing their rental.

Renters are responsible for keeping the renter area clean. Brooms, mops, sponges and scrapers are provided for this purpose. Brattleboro Clayworks will have the room vacuumed once a week and will remove abandoned work, but otherwise the condition of the room is in the care of those using it. Renters must clean up after themselves, including the wheel, the floor around the wheel, the bats, the wedging table, the sink, the glaze area, and any buckets or tools being returned to the common stock.

Renters must label their bags of clay with their names. The studio provides wide masking tape and a marker on the renters' common shelves for this purpose. Buckets of reclaim clay and water pails should also be labeled, as well as recycled clay drying on the plaster bats. It is advisable to make initials on personal tools as well. All clay work must be signed for the sake of identification.

There is no defined limit to the amount of production a renter may do at Brattleboro Clayworks, but the production must not burden the studio. If a renter's production becomes burdensome to the studio, the members will ask the renter to limit her/his production.

Renters are encouraged to contribute to kiln loading and unloading, and to keep the studio clean. If a renter's schedule does not allow one to be available during the times of the loading and unloading of the gas kiln, renters can discuss with the members an equivalent task that could be done to help the studio. The amount of help given should be in accordance with the size of the renter's production.

Brattleboro Clayworks supplies a variety of glazes, some of which tend to drip, which are labeled accordingly on the lid of the glaze bucket. The glaze sample board gives some information about the glazes, but if a renter has any doubt as to whether the glaze will drip, she/he is expected to ask a member or to not use the glaze. If a member loading the kiln notices suspect renter work, the work will not be loaded and the renter will be told why. If a renter's work drips on the shelf during the firing, the renter will be asked to chip the glaze off of the shelf or to do some comparable task. A synthetic wax resist is available in the glaze area, along with various oxides and stains. Renters are reminded that the waxed bottom of pots must be sponged clean to be acceptable for firing.

Renters using a studio key must follow the closing routine described on the renter bulletin board when they leave the studio. Briefly, there are four doors to be locked and all lights, radios must be shut off, and windows shut..

Renters are expected to compensate for any damage done to studio property.

Renters must clean out their shelf area by the last day of the month in which the rental is ending. If a renter leaves work, clay or tools in the studio after her/his rental is over, Brattleboro Clayworks will dispose of it. Bisqued work left unattended for more than three months after the rental is over, with no communication from the renter, will be disposed of.

Working Renter Extended Contract

Occasionally members will decide to offer a renter an extended renter contract, that allows them to enjoy continuous renting in exchange for working in the studio. This is at the discretion of members, and is done in response to a renter showing unusual commitment to the studio and being a potential member when an opening should occur.

Sample Working Renter Contract

The Clayworks' members would like to offer you an extended contract for renting at the Clayworks, starting on the first of _____ and extending for one year until _____. This means that you will not be asked to vacate your space during that time if you want to continue as a renter. If you decide to do this, at the end of the one-year contract period, the members will determine whether we are able to offer you another extended contract or need to ask you to revert to the normal contract(in order to open up spaces for others).

Please print and sign below if you are interested and return to the renter coordinator asap.

I would like to have an extended contract from _____..

I understand that it does not mean that I will necessarily be offered another such contract in the future, and that it cannot be used beyond the dates specified.

Name _____signature:

Date _____