

WHAT TO DO: FROZEN PORCELAIN SLIP



FROZEN SLIP: HOW TO FIX

By Teresa DeSantis

New York Doll Products, Inc.

When winter and the cold weather arrives in some parts of the world you may wonder how that will affect your New York Doll Products porcelain slip. Have you ever gone to pour and found, to your dismay, that your porcelain container was frozen solid? Well, you need not worry!

Many people throughout the ages have frozen slip and clay on purpose to improve its plasticity and working properties. Freezing helps to mechanically break down the clay particles and to loosen the particle bonds within the slip. When the slip is thawed and thoroughly mixed, it becomes a much more resilient and plastic mix, with improved casting, release properties and green strength.

When frozen porcelain slip thaws, it may seem gooey and stringy, like tapioca. To restore the slip to its original vigor, here are some simple steps.:

- Thaw New York Doll Products porcelain slip; let it reach room temperature.
- Then loosen it up by stirring with a wooden stick.
- Empty the slip into a wide mouthed bucket
- Mix slip with a drill mixer until there are no more lumps and “strings”.
- After mixing, check the slip by sticking your hand into it and letting it run off the ends of your fingers. If it seems a little thick at this point, add a little distilled water to bring it down to a pourable consistency. If you do add anything, be sure to remix thoroughly.
- Screen the slip back into a cleaned container. If there are any lumps remaining, push them through with a rubber spatula. Give the slip a quick swish around and you're ready to cast.

NOTE on mixers: Drill mounted mixers are preferable because they are flexible and mobile. Blades are available in nylon and stainless steel. (When you mix slip, don't let the blades touch the bottom or sides of your container, or plastic shavings may be introduced into the slip.) You can also obtain good results using a Slip Whiz.

Happy mixing!

Questions? Contact us!

New York Doll Products, Inc. * www.newyorkdollproducts.com * Email: info@newyorkdollproducts.com