

General information on paper Clays.

Courtesy of Clarissa Regan.
Member of the Inner City Clayworkers Gallery. Sydney.

I've used paperclay for a number of years, ever since I attended one of the workshops of Graham Hay, a West Australian pioneer artist who builds in paperclay. I use it because it is so tough - it can take bad treatment that I know I shouldn't do to clay. Such as forgetting to wrap it and then needing to attach a handle days later. Or I can make unusual shapes and know the green strength of the paperclay will be strong enough to hold the form before firing.

What's really interesting, is a new generation of a throwing paperclay bought out by Blackwattle . Gold Label paperclay

It's much finer, much whiter and , for my personal way of throwing, light years ahead of other paperclays.

I'm currently using the White Gold Label paperclay to make sculptural pieces and because I use a lot of printed imagery such as silkscreens and decals on my surface, I love the fact it provides a clean white background.

And for the slurry and recycle scraps, I've learnt to add a dash of Dettol. That's because paperclay breaks down, being an organic material, and can start to smell. Other artists use bleach but I find simple Dettol gentler on the hands.

Paperclay Tips

I bisque the work up higher than normal, to at least 1050oC. I still use slips and underglazes before firing, but it is recommended to apply these after bisquing, if possible, to ensure the glaze fits well.

Other information on paperclays

www.grahamhay.com.au

Paperclay by Rosette Gault

Working with paperclay by Anne Lighwood.