

The Villages Ceramics Room

Membership & Safety Policy

To ensure a safe, respectful, and well-functioning ceramics studio for all residents, the following membership requirements apply.

1. New Member Pathway – Beginning Class

Residents new to ceramics must complete the Beginning Ceramics Class before becoming studio members. This class is the primary pathway to independent studio use.

- The class is 5 weeks in length
- No absences are permitted
- A class fee is required
- All safety, glazing, and studio procedures are taught
- Upon successful completion of the full 5-week course, participants will be approved for Ceramics Room usage.

2. Basic Knowledge Requirement

All studio users must demonstrate a working knowledge of:

- Studio tools and their safe use
- Operation and safety of studio equipment
- Clay types and proper handling
- Glaze application and labeling procedures
- Cleanup and shared space etiquette

This is required for safety, equipment protection, and fairness to other members.

3. Experienced Ceramicists (Test-Out Option)

Residents who already have ceramics experience and choose not to take the beginning class must:

- Pass a multiple-choice studio knowledge and safety test
- Demonstrate familiarity with studio procedures
- Those who do not pass the test will be required to enroll in the Beginning Ceramics Class before using the studio.

4. Additional Membership Requirements

For safe and independent studio use, members must be able to:

- Lift and carry up to 25 pounds
- Follow written and verbal instructions
- Understand and carry out studio procedures for tools, glazes and equipment

Independent open studio use requires the abilities listed above for personal and community safety. Residents who may need assistance with any of the above tasks are welcome to enroll in the Beginning Ceramics Classes, where support is available. But independent use of the open studio requires the requirements listed above to ensure personal and community safety.

5. Safety & Compliance

Membership may be suspended or revoked if a member:

- Repeatedly using equipment improperly
- Fails to follow glaze or kiln procedures
- Failure to adhere to rules of the studio
- Creates unsafe conditions for others

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6. Our Shared Studio

This is a community workspace. Every member is responsible for:

- Cleaning tools and surfaces after use
- Properly labeling work
- Respecting others' projects and time
- Following all posted studio rules

Our goal is to provide a safe, organized, and enjoyable ceramics environment for everyone. Thank you for helping us protect the studio and each other.