Kiln upkeep

# Kiln upkeep

Our elementary school kilns get used on a regular basis. Both teachers and Art Docents programs create projects which utilize this equipment.

These kilns are very expensive and technical items. Like the copiers in the office or the AC system, the kilns needs upkeep and professional care.

Kilns need:

* Vacuuming out monthly with regular use (remove all shelves and vacuum base & element tracks).
* Replacement of thermocouples1 & relays2 every 100 to 120 firings as repeated use & heat degrade the metal
* Replacement of elements3 every 250 to 300 firings as repeated use and heat degrade the metal parts.
* Kiln brick4 as needed. Kiln brick can be damaged by regular use as it can get nicked or cracked easily.
* Plugs replaced as needed ($8.00/each)
* Lid replacement when needed (rarely)
* Air venting/hood in room for fire safety (every school has them)
* Enviro-vents - (vent from bottom of kiln to the outside)

# common kiln care schedule

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Kiln Type** |  | **Skutt 23” x 27”** | | **Crucible 23”x27”** | |
| **Kiln Cost** |  |  | **$2580.00** |  | **$3200.00** |
| **Contractor** |  | Clay Arts Center  1-800-952-8030  www.clayartcenter.net | | Seattle Pottery  1-800-522-1975  www.Seattlepotterysupply.com | |
| **Monthly** | Vacuuming w/ Hepa filter | Custodian with mask |  | Custodian with mask |  |
| **Annually (estimated cost)** | Thermocouples & Relays | Contractor | $200 labor, $15/thermocouple, $30/relay with 3 relays = **$305.00 + tax** | Contractor | $90 labor, $25 travel, $22/thermocouple, $31.50/relay with 3 relays = **$231.50 + tax** |
| **2 – 3 Years** | Elements | Contractor | $350 labor, $50/element w/6 elements =**$650.00 + tax** | Contractor | ? labor, $25 travel, $45.50/element w/6 elements =**$298 + labor & tax** |
| **As Needed** | Kiln Brick repair | Some experience needed |  | Some experience needed |  |
|  | Lid ($300) replacement | Contractor | **$300 parts** | Contractor | **$160 parts** |
|  | Venting from base of kiln to outside | Contractor | **$370.00 Enviro vent parts** | Contractor | **$470.00 parts** |

1. Thermocouple - thermometer inside kiln
2. Relays - relays temp. from thermocouples to computer system
3. Elements - metal wire that creates heat, very much like your toaster
4. Kiln brick - soft yellow brick kiln is built with

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