SILKEMAT® BASIC INFORMATION

1. SilkeMat® is a NON-CARCINOGENIC material and can be cut and handled with minimal concern. See the SDS sheet for more information, available on the website.
2. You may prefire SilkeMat® to 1450F for 15-20 min to burn out moisture and pre-shrink, IF YOU CHOOSE. It is not necessary to do so prior to usage. The main reason to pre-shrink is when the mold needs to be a specific size. A slight odor may occur during first firing. There are no organics to burn off, but moisture and a small amount of residual oil from the rollers may be evident. Vent your kiln accordingly.

DO NOT FIRE AFAP ON A CERAMIC SHELF, WHICH COULD CRACK.

Either remove your shelf or slow your firing down to what is comfortable for your kiln.

3. PLEASE NOTE: IF RIGIDIZING, YOU MAY SKIP THE PRE-FIRE INSTRUCTIONS ANYWAY.
4. SilkeMat® will shrink slightly the first firing but will not change upon subsequent firings.
5. Once fired, you will notice that SilkeMat® becomes slightly stiffer, rather than softer like other fiber materials. Unless it is rigidized, it can be reformed after firing.
6. SilkeMat® can be laser-cut and/or hand cut for kiln carving projects. The material cuts cleanly for a crisp edge and can be fired multiple times with no degeneration.
7. SilkeMat® may be rigidized with SilkeMat® Rigidizer, but care should be taken when sanding, using a good dust mask. N-95 or better is recommended.
8. A rigidized mold may be lightly sprayed with a high-quality boron nitride spray to avoid any sticking issue due to the rigidizer. However, we have found even pot melt glass usually pops out with little to no damage to the mold. More detailed instructions can be found on the SilkeMat® Rigidizer sheet.
9. Float Glass has not been found to stick to SilkeMat® at normal temperatures, even with multiple firings. However, softer glasses (COE 90 & 96) & opaque glasses are more stubborn at full-fuse temperatures, although residual fibers can usually be removed with a stiff-bristle brush.
10. When using SilkeMat® for slumping molds, it has not been necessary to do any preparation other than prefiring, if you choose to pre-shrink. And all glasses tested released smoothly with no clouding at slumping temperatures, even when the interior has been left unrigidized.
11. We have found the ¼" thickness is quite sufficient for all applications can usually be used for many firings, especially if unrigidized.
12. Some users may be sensitive to SilkeMat® fibers. In that case, gloves & appropriate clothing are suggested.

We are constantly discovering new things about this product and will update you accordingly. Our Facebook Group "SilkeMat Tips & Techniques" is a good source for interacting with the SilkeMat® community and discovering new and different ways to use SilkeMat® and SilkeMat® Rigidizer.

Happy Firing!

SilkeMat®, 411 N Cedar St, Unit B, Greensboro NC 27401, USA 336-580-7063
sales@SilkeMat.com www.SilkeMat.com