



## Overglaze Decal Preparation for PGPG Printers Team

[www.printers@pgpotters.ca](mailto:www.printers@pgpotters.ca)

There are a few important notes if you are creating a file to send to PGPG for your personal overglaze decals.

### Prices

- Cost for PGPG members with up-to-date volunteer hours\*: \$15 per sheet;
- Cost for non-members and PGPG members **without** up-to-date volunteer hours\*: \$25 per sheet;
- Shipping through Canada Post is approximately \$5 to Canada ( 1-8 sheets);
- Payment can be made by e-transfer to [clay@pgpotters.ca](mailto:clay@pgpotters.ca). Your decals will be printed once payment is received.

### Your files must come to the PGPG print team exactly as you would like to have them printed

- We cannot adjust your files. They will be printed exactly as received;
- You must have copyright of the images. PGPG is not responsible for any copyright infringement, and if you are using another artists' work, you must ensure that you have their signed consent to do so;
- Squeeze as many images as you can into the printing space. The PGPG team recommends using Canva (a free service), but you can prepare your files in Word or Photoshop if you like. Save your files as a .jpg, TIFF or PDF. Please make sure file is high resolution (300 dpi);
- The printed space is 8.5" x 11" or letter size. Leave a 1/4" margin around the page
- If you have large file (over 10MB), please use Gmail and it will send a link for download  
The email address is [printers@pgpotters.ca](mailto:printers@pgpotters.ca)

### Overglaze Decal Application and Firing Instructions

Overglaze decals can be applied to low and hire fire ceramics but they require an pre-fired, already-glazed glossy surface for the best results. They also like to be applied to smooth surfaces; the more texture the harder it will be to get the decal to adhere evenly. Since there is no white ink in the printer, please consider what your background colour is going to be.

Overglaze decals are best suited for glossy white or off-white glazes. As well, the lamination used on the sheets contains a small amount of flux so there is a slight raised line that can appear around the decal image, thus the need to cut as close to the image as possible.

We can get pretty close to many colours, but the printer uses China paint, not paper ink, and matching colours is almost impossible. To achieve the best colour range and results possible, please follow the firing instructions as closely as possible.

Apply the decals on your pieces at least 12 hours to dry before firing or if you need to put them in the kiln right away, let them preheat for an hour or so before letting the cycle go.



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### Application and Tips

- Your wares need to be clean of grease and dust. A soapy bath, Isopropyl alcohol or Windex will do the trick.
- Cut out the image as close as possible to the edges and place them in warm water (a little warmer than lukewarm) for about 30 seconds. Please note that there is a slight raised edge to the decal that is barely visible but is slightly tactile so the closer you can cut the better.
- You will begin to feel the printed image start to slide off the white backing paper...feels kind of slimy. This means the decal is ready to apply to the surface.
- As you position the decal on your work, you have a little time to slide it exactly where you want it.
- Once you have set it in place, take a soft rubber rib and gently squeeze out the water or air bubbles. Any water or air trapped between the decal and surface will stay in place and you will be left with a bare spot in that place. The big drawback with any decal is its unwillingness to conform to textured surfaces.
- If you have a rounded surface, try heating the piece up a little before applying the decals. Try placing your wares in warm water as this cuts down the difference in temperatures between a warm decal and a cold pot.

### Firing and Temperature Recommendations

- These decals like lots of air flow and so it is important to NOT stack the kiln too tight.
- Try not to place the decal side of your pieces too close to the kiln elements
- Vent your decal firing throughout the entire firing
- You will be firing your wares to approximately Cone 012
- DO NOT exceed this temperature or the colors will start to burn out and you will be left with blues and blacks.