

Name _____ Started _____ Skills checked _____ of 66

Check a skill off when you can do it without help, and date it. Inside each branch, the skills build in order. Every skill has a lesson behind it on the online Skill Tree, which also keeps your checks for you.

Clay and prep Before anything is a pot.

- ☐ Open a bag and judge the clay _____
- ☐ Wedge a ball of clay _____
- ☐ Reclaim your own scrap _____
- ☐ Slam wedge a whole bag _____
- ☐ Choose a clay body on purpose _____
- ☐ Color clay with mason stains **OPTIONAL** _____

The wheel Centering through to a lid that fits.

- ☐ Center a lump _____
- ☐ Cone up and down _____
- ☐ Open the clay and set the floor _____
- ☐ Compress the floor and the rim _____
- ☐ Pull a wall _____
- ☐ Throw a straight cylinder _____
- ☐ Use a rib _____
- ☐ Collar a neck in _____
- ☐ Get it off the wheel intact _____
- ☐ Throw a bowl _____
- ☐ Throw a mug and pull a handle _____
- ☐ Decide about a bat _____
- ☐ Jump up in clay size _____
- ☐ Throw a closed form _____
- ☐ Throw a lid that fits _____
- ☐ Throw off the hump _____
- ☐ Throw a plate _____
- ☐ Throw a teapot _____
- ☐ Throw in sections _____

Firing and after The kiln, and what comes out of it.

- ☐ Know what each firing does _____
- ☐ Protect the shelf _____
- ☐ Load and unload a kiln **OPTIONAL** _____
- ☐ Read a cone _____
- ☐ Diagnose a fault _____
- ☐ Fix a fired piece _____
- ☐ Reglaze and refire _____
- ☐ Fire outside an electric kiln _____

Hand building Slabs, coils and the things the wheel cannot make.

- ☐ Make a pinch pot _____
- ☐ Roll an even coil _____
- ☐ Score and slip a join _____
- ☐ Build with coils _____
- ☐ Roll an even slab _____
- ☐ Build from a slab _____
- ☐ Use slab molds _____
- ☐ Build a lidded box _____
- ☐ Use the wall extruder **OPTIONAL** _____
- ☐ Carve a pot from a block _____
- ☐ Sculpt a figure _____

Leather hard Trimming, carving and everything that happens once it firms up.

- ☐ Read the stage of a piece _____
- ☐ Dry a piece without cracking it _____
- ☐ Tell when it is bone dry _____
- ☐ Dry something awkward _____
- ☐ Rescue a piece _____
- ☐ Call the build finished _____
- ☐ Trim a foot _____
- ☐ Cut a foot ring _____
- ☐ Trim an awkward shape _____
- ☐ Sign your work _____

Surface and glaze What goes on the pot before the last firing. Certification comes before you glaze anything.

- ☐ Carve a line _____
- ☐ Press texture into clay _____
- ☐ Burnish a surface _____
- ☐ Glaze with a brush _____
- ☐ Inlay a line _____
- ☐ Paint with underglaze _____
- ☐ Make and read a test tile _____
- ☐ Scratch through to the clay _____
- ☐ Use a resist _____
- ☐ Dip a piece _____
- ☐ Layer two glazes _____
- ☐ Spray a glaze **OPTIONAL** _____

Four skills are optional. Skip one and it comes out of your count. Matches the online Skill Tree, October 2026. Certify before the slab rollers, the glazes and the dipping buckets.

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The Pottery Skill Tree

A lesson for every skill, and it saves your checks.