



DINNERWARE TERMS

BISQUE FIRE. Sometimes called biscuit firing; it is the first firing in dinnerware processing that hardens the ware in its final shape.

BONE CHINA. China that contains animal bone ash for added translucency and whiteness. Developed originally in England, but now made in Japan and the United States as well.

CASTING. Pottery, earthenware, china, glass and other products that are made from a mixture of natural materials processed by firing.

CHINA. A nonporous type of dinnerware made of white clay and fired at exceptionally high temperature. The finer grades are generally thin, translucent, resistant to chipping, and ring clearly when struck.

CRAZING. Fine cracks appearing in the glaze of dinnerware is know as crazing. It is caused by different rates of expansion between body the body and the glaze.

DECAL or **DECALOMINIA.** A special design-bearing sheet used in dinner decoration. The sheet is applied to a piece of ware, resulting in the transfer of the decoration to the ware. It is then fused to the glaze by firing.

EARTHENWARE. A type of clayware that is opaque, somewhat porous, not as strong or as thin as china. It also lacks the resonance of china. It is suitable for everyday use because of its durability, low price, and the variety of available styles.

EMBOSSING. A raised or molded decoration produced either in the mold or formed separately and applied before firing.

FINE CHINA. Thin, translucent china which is very strong, yet very delicate. It is made of top quality clays fired at high temperatures that cause them to fuse into a hard, nonporous body.

FIRING. A baking process for making all ceramic ware under carefully controlled temperatures.

GLASS-CERAMIC. A type of dinnerware body that begins as glass, then undergoes special treatment which causes it to take on the appearance of white ceramic. It is costly, but is the strongest of all dinnerware.

GLAZE. A glass-like coating that is applied to pottery and dinnerware by either dipping or spraying. It may be clear or have color. It improves the appearance of dinnerware and makes it moisture-proof as long as the glaze is intact.

IRONSTONE. Refers to earthenware of good quality and better than average strength. True Ironstone was originally developed in England.

KILN. The oven in which ceramic ware is fired.

MOLDING. A process using heat and pressure by which plastic dinnerware pieces are shaped and given a glossy surface finish at the same time.

MOLD MARKS. Ridges on molded glassware and dinnerware pieces that show the point at which the mold that formed the item was separated for removal of the finished ware. If it is overly prominent, it may be an indication of careless workmanship.

OPAQUE. Not transparent, blocks all light, cannot see light through surface or object.

OPEN STOCK. A dinnerware sales concept in which ware is sold by the individual piece or in small groups rather than in complete predetermined composition or sets. The term is often mistaken by customers to mean that patterns sold in this manner will be available forever.

OVENWARE. Dinnerware that is able to withstand the heat of a kitchen oven without damage. It can be used for both table service and oven cooking. It usually features a casual design with bright colors.

PLACE SETTING. Usually five (although sometimes four or six) matched pieces of dinnerware for setting a single place at a table. The five pieces most commonly included are a dinner plate, bread-and-butter plate or soup bowl and a cup and saucer.

PORCELAIN. A hard, translucent, clayware body that differs very slightly from china in ingredients and manufacturing process. In most respects the two are so much alike that the term can be used interchangeably.

POTTER'S WHEEL. A round platform rotated either mechanically or manually upon which the potter throws, or forms, clay into a circular shape.

POTTERY. A porous and not very durable form of clayware made of crude red or brown clay and fired at comparatively low temperatures.

SEMI-PORCELAIN. A type of relatively high-fired, quality earthenware developed in the United States. It is more porous than Ironstone.

STARTER SET. A combination of 16 or 20 dinnerware pieces that are sold as a unit.

STONEWARE. A hard clayware made of light-colored clay and fired at high temperatures. It is nonporous and very durable, but does not have the translucence of fine china.

THROWING. Forming clay by hand as it is rotated on a potter's wheel.

TRANSFER PRINTING. A decorating method similar to the one in which decals are used, but permitting only one color at a time to be applied.

VITRIFIED. Material that is changed into a glass-like substance by fusion due to heat. This material is nonporous and very hard. All true china is vitrified.

TRANSLUCENCE. That quality of fine china that makes it semi-transparent. It may be demonstrated by placing the hand across the back of a piece and holding it up to the light. A silhouette of the hand will be visible through the piece.

TUNNEL KILN. A long, tunnel-like oven in which clayware is fired by being carried through on flat cars that move along very slowly.

UNDERGLAZE DECORATION. A ceramic decoration that is applied directly to the unglazed body and then covered with a protective glaze coating that makes it highly resistant to wear.

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