

Understanding Mayco Washes

A Studio Guide



- What are washes?
- How do I use Mayco's Washes?
- Why use commercially prepared washes instead of mixing my own?
- Plus, Mayco's Wash Gallery. Photos from Wash fans and users.



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MAYCO WASHES

Overview: Mayco's Stoneware Washes are a multi-purpose product with limitless possibilities. These Washes can be used alone for staining techniques, or with any glaze from low fire up to cone 10. They are beautiful in oxidation, or reduction, and can really expand the palette of the artist or teacher. Washes are metallic glaze colorants, which are formulated for ease of use and versatility.

Each Wash uses, as main ingredient, a ceramic pigment: Rutile, Manganese, Iron or Copper. These materials are very typical glaze materials and are likely found in your favorite glazes already.

Iron creates browns and rust-colored hues in glazes. It can also produce a metallic effect when fired. Iron also is a significant component found in red and brown clays.

Some of the ways you can use Mayco's Iron Wash are outlined below:

Use it by itself as a stain. Apply a watered-down version of Iron Wash to the bisque fired piece. (This is especially nice for textured ware.) Allow the stain to get into all the low spots and then let dry thoroughly. (The ingredients in the wash will help it stick to the piece more effectively than a wash you may mix up in the studio. It also contains some flux that gives it a slight shimmer.)

After the piece is dry, use a wet sponge to wipe away the Wash from high places and let it remain in low places. You can fire without glazing to cone 06 and up to cone 10. Or you can apply a translucent glaze over. This staining technique will emphasize the tactile texture of the piece.



SW-203
Iron Wash

Using Iron Wash as a stain is very popular on sculptures, outdoor pieces and other types of work that does not require a food safe surface. The surface mimics wood or leather and offers a very rich and beautiful finish.

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- Use *OVER* or *UNDER* your favorite glaze. Iron Wash has the least amount of movement of all of the washes. If you use it in a brushstroke, (either over or under a glaze) you can create contrast and depth in the glaze, sometimes producing a new color.



In this photo, Mayco Stoneware Speckled Plum Glaze (SW-113) is used with Iron Wash (SW-301). At the top of the vase, Iron Wash is applied *UNDER* Speckled Plum (wash is used full strength). In the band below, the Iron Wash is applied *OVER* the Speckled Plum. You can see that the glaze did not interact with the wash the same way in *OVER* and *UNDER* techniques. The edges are harder and the “spot” effect did not occur when applied *UNDER* the glaze. (The bottom third of the pot shows Speckled Plum by itself). Vase was single-fired to cone 6.

Results from low firing Iron Wash will produce color and textural changes as well, depending on the glaze with which it is used. Iron Wash is less mobile (often viewed as runny) at low firing temps. Occasionally, Iron Wash will create bumpy surfaces with certain low fire glazes at cone 06. When firing this product to low fire temps, please keep in mind that the edges of your design will not feather out like some glazes or other washes will. This feature can be incorporated into your design.

Applying the Washes both ways on a test tile will give you some really great information for your future work.

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Rutile predominantly contains titanium dioxide (it can also contain iron). Rutile produces a lighter color than Iron Wash, more like straw or tan. Rutile creates more visual texture in a glaze. It will give more mottled surfaces, causing glazes to feather at the edges and move slightly. Rutile encourages visual depth in a glaze, creating the appearance of separation between two layers.

- *Use as a stain by itself.* Rutile Wash has a matte, orange-tan-ochre color. All Mayco Washes “stay put” when staining. Apply Rutile Wash as a stain using the same general technique mentioned for Iron Wash. Use the same technique as mentioned above for Iron wash as a stain.

- *Use OVER or UNDER your favorite glaze.* You can see here that the Rutile Wash will really change the texture and color of an existing glaze. This Wash is not terribly active at low fire temperatures. It does not move, as it will at cone 5 and up. Edges will not create the feathered effect that occurs at higher temps.



SW-302
Rutile Wash



Rutile Wash (SW-302) is applied **UN-
DER** Mayco Stoneware Speckled Plum
Glaze (SW-113) on the top third;
Rutile Wash **OVER** Speckled Plum in
the middle third and Speckled Plum by
itself in the bottom third.

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Manganese is known to produce browns, purples, and rusty reds in glazes. Of the four washes, this one is the most mobile. (It is an active flux, can run if you are not careful.)

-Use it as a stain by itself. As a stain Manganese Wash will show as a brownish, shiny, metallic surface. Experiment with amounts of added water, it is easy to wipe away too much when staining. Apply Manganese Wash as a stain using the same general technique mentioned for Iron Wash.

-Use OVER or UNDER your favorite glaze. This Wash can produce many different hues when used with glaze. Colors range from rich cola colors to some really deep purples. I have also had some greenish/blue edges occur. It is very active on the glaze surface. Make sure you do some test tiles, try it full strength and with a little dilution of water. Manganese Wash used with low fire glazes create interesting raised crater-like textures when fired to cone 06 (it will also move a bit at low fire temperatures).



SW-303
Maganese Wash

Manganese Wash (SW-303) was applied with Speckled Plum Glaze (SW-113) in the same sequence as above. As you can see, this wash has increased the mobility of the Speckled Plum quite a bit. Note the blue edges and purple hues.



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Copper is a metallic glaze colorant that gives us our greens and blues. Our Wash version of Copper also has a lot of movement. It will run in thick application and will also cause glazes to move quite a bit.

-Use by itself or as a stain . Copper Wash is a very active on any surface. Even without a glaze, it will flux on its own. Experiment with various thicknesses as a stain. A little can go a long way. Apply Copper Wash as a stain using the same general technique mentioned for Iron Wash.



SW-304
Copper Wash

In this photo, you can see the greens of the Copper Wash. In areas of thickness, the material will become gun metal black at cone 6 oxidation.

Use it OVER or UNDER your favorite glaze. Copper Wash, like the Manganese Wash, will cause most glazes to move or flow in the kiln. These effects are beautiful but need to be preceded by some test tiles. It is very important to do some experiments (preferably NOT on your favorite pieces!) with all of these materials. Keep both the Copper and the Manganese Washes away from the bottom of the pots if using them full strength. At low fire temps, the Copper Wash is by far the most active with and without glaze.



As in the three previous examples Copper Wash (SW-304) is used UNDER and OVER Speckled Plum (SW-113). Metallic greens are vividly displayed when used UNDER the glaze, while beautiful purple metallic is produced when used OVER.

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****NOTE:** Color change is an effect caused by the ingredients in your glaze and the wash. Each unique glaze will interact differently with each wash.

Mayco's Stoneware Washes are an amazing value for artists, teachers and hobbyists. Suggested retail prices are as follows: Iron Wash, Rutile Wash and Manganese Wash are \$2.95. Copper Wash is \$3.50. All Washes are sold in 4 oz. jars only. The versatility of the product should make it a money-saving staple for any studio.

Additional Uses-

(Always experiment and test first)

We have shown just a few of the ways these products can be utilized in the studio. Some other uses can be:

- **Fuming.**

Paint a wash on a kiln post and place that post close to a piece of your work in the kiln (use a clean piece of old shelf under the post, in case of running). When the kiln reaches maturity, the colors in the wash may FUME onto your piece. The result is a flash of subtle color.

- **Tinting.**

Use wash to tint an existing glaze, slip or Underglaze by mixing them before application.

- **Image Transfer.**

Apply Iron Wash to a black and white image from your home printer. The ink will resist the wash and you will have a transferable iron picture to put on your piece. You can use a glaze as the vehicle to move the image onto your piece. This technique is available in further detail in our Project Library.

- **Create a Dendritic Slip.**

As seen in ***Mochaware***, a dendritic slip often uses vinegar and tobacco to create diffusion between the materials when applied to a wet Underglaze or Engobe. Mayco Washes can be used to color the dendritic slip.

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



All four of Mayco's Washes with Stroke and Coats, cone 06, on Red Earthenware. (Artist, Susan Rice)

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



Mayco Copper Wash and Manganese Wash with Alabaster Stoneware glaze and Stroke and Coat, cone 6, on white porcelain. (Artist, Lisa Bare Culp)

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



Here, Mayco Copper Wash is interspersed with Mayco Cascades for a liquid effect. Dipped in Alabaster Stoneware glaze, fired to cone 6, on white stoneware.

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



Mayco Copper Wash under Silver Lining Stroke and Coat, cone 06, on red earthenware. (Artist: Susan Rice)

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



Mayco Manganese Wash under Silver Lining Stroke and Coat, cone 06, on red earthenware. (Artist: Susan Rice)

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



Mayco Copper Wash under Patina Element glaze. Cone 06, on red earthenware. (Artist: Susan Rice)

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



Iron Wash used as a stain on tan stoneware. Cone 6. (Artist: Meghan Howard)

MAYCO WASH GALLERY



Tile using image transfer technique and Iron Wash. (Artist: Marcia Roullard)

For more ideas and product information, visit www.maycocolors.com.