

# If Sheet

## You will need:

22 gallons of water  
400 lbs. dry clay  
4 ozs. soda ash  
1 pint hot water  
11 ozs. (liquid) sodium silicate  
Slip mixing equipment  
paddle or broom handle

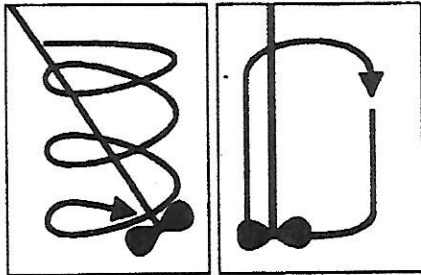


fig. 1

fig. 2

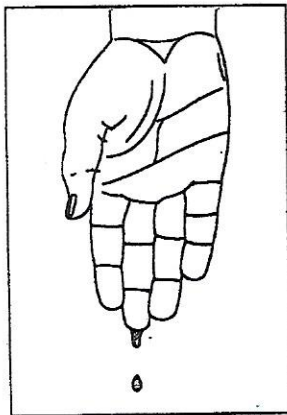


fig. 3

## Instructions for mixing 40 gallons of VelvaTex slip

1. Measure 22 gallons of water into a barrel.
2. Dissolve 4 ounces of soda ash in a pint of hot water and add to water.
3. Add the 11 ounces of sodium silicate.
4. Set mixer to pull a vortex in the center of the barrel (fig. 1). Mix the water for a few minutes to blend the chemicals thoroughly.
5. Start adding clay. The last 100 pounds will be more difficult to mix. Use a paddle or broom handle to assist the mixer.
6. Change the angle of the mixer to a roll-over action (fig. 2). Rolling the slip allows the air to work to the surface and out of the mix. Mix for at least 30 minutes until well blended and smooth.
7. Measure exactly one pint of slip into a container that was weighed empty. Weigh the filled container and subtract the weight of the container. The slip should weigh between 29 and 30 ounces. Specific gravity of 1.75 to 1.8.
8. **IF** the slip is overweight, add water. One gallon of water reduces the weight of 40 gallons of slip by 1/2 ounce per pint.
9. **IF** the weight is right but the slip seems fluffy or thick, add a pint of water with one ounce of sodium silicate. Mix for 20 minutes.
10. **Drip test.** Stir the slip with your hand submerged to the wrist. Holding your hand vertically pull your hand out of the slip with all your fingers together pointing down (fig. 3). When the slip stops running in a steady stream, count 12 to 14 drips.
11. **IF** there are less than 12 drips.  
Add one ounce of sodium silicate to one pint hot water. Add 1/4 of this mixture to the slip. Mix and retest. Add more sodium silicate as needed remember, *you can always add, but you can't take out!*
12. Mix slip at least 4 to 6 hours the first day. Screen slip through an 80 mesh screen and mix for another hour or two.

It's best to keep good records of what you've done. Note each step and amounts of chemical that you use. You cannot beat experience. Whenever the slip seems perfect take some time to weigh it and check the drip. Check your notes, they will tell you what you did and how to mix your next batch.