



SilkeMat

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SilkeMat™ RIGIDIZER

- 1. Shake thoroughly** before applying, as the solution settles. May also be water-diluted to desired consistency of medium to heavy cream.
- 2. Application:** brush or dip SilkeMat™ both sides. **It is not necessary to completely soak through for a firm mold.**
- 3.** Position on a non-porous mold or form which has been lightly sprayed with vegetable oil or similar mold release; or hand-manipulate into shape. If the model you are using is porous, clear plastic food wrap can be used instead of oil as a release agent.
- 4. For Slumping Molds:** An optional method is to only saturate one side of the mold and leave the interior soft for a gentle texture on the glass. No separator needed.

GLOVES ARE RECOMMENDED WHEN WORKING WITH WET RIGIDIZER

- 3. Recommended: Allow to air dry.** Or, set the wet mold into a warm kiln at 250-300F to gently dry. *** Make sure the form you are using will withstand that temperature without warping or melting.
- 4.** Keep fiber or mold as flat or undisturbed as possible since it may warp upon drying.
- 5.** When sufficiently dry to handle easily, cure in a **VENTED** kiln set at (AFAP) 1450F for 20-30 minutes. Some odor may be evident as the oil and moisture burn off, but it is not harmful.

REMOVE MODEL BEFORE FIRING MOLD

- 6. TO AVOID SHRINKAGE IN FINAL MOLD:** It is recommended to prefire mold (even if air-dried) or raw SilkeMat™, to completely cure it. **NOTE (again): REMOVE FROM MODEL BEFORE FIRING.** Keep vent open for moisture to escape. Some odor may be evident, but not harmful. SilkeMat™ will now be in rigid form and ready to use.
- 7.** A high-temp fiber paper or boron nitride coating may be applied as a separator and dried as directed by the manufacturer. However, for our purposes this has not been necessary. Test first to see how your glass reacts with a coated surface.
- 8.** When dried, SilkeMat™ may be sanded for some smoothness, but a **facemask** is highly recommended to eliminate inhalation of dry silica particles.
- 9.** Holes and/or slots may be drilled or cut into the dry rigid SilkeMat™ form for pot melts using an X-acto type knife or electric drill. Again, a good dust mask or respirator is recommended.
- 10.** Rigidized SilkeMat™ molds tend to degrade slightly with multiple firings, and a thin layer of surface fiber may stick to the glass. **Store at room temperature.**

This product is non-flammable and is non-hazardous in liquid form.

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