



INSTRUCTIONS FOR SilkeMat® RIGIDIZER

1. Shake thoroughly before applying, as the solution settles. Rigidizer can be quite thick and can thicken upon storage, but may be diluted with distilled water to desired consistency of medium to heavy cream.
2. Application: Pour gently on the surface, using an applicator to spread and lightly press into the SilkeMat® one or both sides. It is not necessary to completely soak through for a firm mold.
3. Position on a **non-porous model** or form which has been lightly sprayed with vegetable oil or similar mold release; and hand-manipulate into shape. On **porous** models, clear plastic food wrap or a lightweight plastic bag can be used instead of oil as a release agent.
4. For Slumping Molds: An optional method is to only rigidize one side of the mold and leave the interior soft for a gentle texture on the glass. No separator is needed.

GLOVES MAY BE USED WHEN WORKING WITH WET RIGIDIZER, BUT NOT NECESSARY
SilkeMat® Rigidizer is not harmful, but will tend to dry out your hands.

Allow to air dry (sunshine is great) or, set the wet mold into a warm kiln on aluminum foil at 150F/65C for several hours to gently dry. Drying too quickly will cause the mold to warp. **NOTE:** Make sure the model/form you are using will withstand that temperature without warping or melting. When fully dry it is ready to use.

It is helpful to press down the wet/damp fibers with your fingers or smoothing tool as it dries, which alleviates some sanding.

NOTE: It is not necessary to “cure” a fully dried mold. You can use as-is. Just remember it will shrink upon firing. Also, a rigidized mold that has just been dried and not fully cured can be reformed by rehydrating with wet Rigidizer (not just water). Curing a mold pre-shrinks it and makes the shape permanent, and it will no longer accept additional Rigidizer, or change shape.

- A. If “curing”, fire to 1450 F/788C at a comfortable ramp for your kiln. SilkeMat® cannot thermal-shock, but your ceramic shelf can. Do NOT fire AFAP on a ceramic shelf, as the shelf may crack with a rapid temperature rise.
- B. Some odor & color change may be evident as the oil and moisture burn off, but it is not harmful.
- C. Venting the kiln when first fired is recommended and may produce a slight non-toxic odor. Venting to about 800F/427C is sufficient.

5. 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 to about 800F/427C for moisture to escape. SilkeMat® will now be in rigid form and ready to use.

8. Papyros or Thinfire, or a high-quality boron nitride coating like ZYP may be applied as a separator as directed by the manufacturer. We find transparent glass rarely sticks and but opals, however, are notorious for sticking.

9. When dried or rigidized, SilkeMat® may be sanded for some smoothness. An N-95 or equivalent facemask is highly recommended to eliminate inhalation of dry particles.

10. Holes and/or slots may be cut into the dry rigid SilkeMat® form using a craft knife, or any number of plastic or metal items. Round items, like plastic straws, can be pressed and twisted to create holes.

11. Rigidized SilkeMat® molds tend to degrade slightly with multiple firings at high temperatures, and a thin layer of surface fiber may stick to the glass. Usually, a stiff bristle brush removes most if not all residue. Separators are helpful.

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

SilkeMat®, 411 N Cedar St, Unit B, Greensboro NC 27401, USA 336-580-7063

sales@SilkeMat.com

www.SilkeMat.com

©Barbara J Cashman April 2024