

Kiln Installation Requirements

Provided by: The Pottery Consultant©
American Ceramic Supply Company, Inc.

What your contractors and electricians need to know©

Kilns and Wiring:

The only National Uniform Code requirements are that the kilns sit 18" from the walls for all brands (except Paragon which can sit 12" from walls) and sit on their stands on concrete – if the walls are non-combustible; and if you are taking that into consideration, there should be no problems. If combustible walls, all brands must sit 36" away from wall. All brands must sit within 25 feet of the electric panel (except Skutt which can sit within 40 feet.) This is not as the crow flies, but taking into consideration up a wall, across a ceiling, down a wall, etc. If you deviate from this, copper wire sizes will have to be adjusted and this can be expensive.

Kilns are safer than ovens in restaurants. Kilns are not going to catch on fire or catch anything around them on fire. The ONLY way there might be a problem is if the electrician does the wiring wrong. But if we have in writing that the wiring will be 240V or 208V, (In the kiln world, 220 is actually for Europe) and single phase or three-phase and have ordered kilns that are according to that fax, there should be no problems.

Once lease is signed, have electrician (that you are SURE you will use for job) email me or fax (817-536-7120) the following information:

How many amps are coming into the building? _____ (I recommend minimum 200 amps for commercial spaces)

Volts – 240_____ or 208 _____

Phase – Single_____ or Three_____

Where is the electric panel on the floor plan? _____ (within 25 ft of kiln?
Or how far will the kiln sit from the existing electric panel?)

Then once you have picked your brand of kiln and model, I can email back to him the exact and proper copper wire, breaker and if receptacle or hard wire. Each kiln is different. Some kilns can use receptacles if 240V, single-phase models, but in the long run, if they can be hard wired, even your electrician should agree, it is better. In a brand-new commercial space where you can dictate amps, volts and phase, again I would

recommend 200 amps, 208V and three-phase. Most of the time, we will not have this luxury. Your kiln may use up to 60-80 amps per kiln.

Venting:

As far as the venting goes, kilns will be ordered pre-drilled and the downdraft vent sits under the kiln and goes to the motor/blower and the ducting attaches to it and goes outside – either out the back wall just like a dryer duct – and that is what the contractors will buy – 4" wide, flexible aluminum ducting to attach to the vent and the wall mount to go outside.(they also get the wall mount for you and install it)...OR...the ducting can go up through the ceiling and up through the roof. Most code says that if it does go up through the roof.... the part that extends from the ceiling to the roof must be rigid.... again....4" wide, and the contractor can get that from Home Depot or Lowes, as well. And if up through the roof, your lease may dictate you must use the landlord's roofer.

You can forward this to ALL concerned parties – contractor and electrician and if they need to me to talk to them, we can make arrangements for me to do so. I have copy of the National Mechanical Uniform Code requirements for kilns for your contractors (for the sake of permits) when the time comes. I will visit Vent website with you and/or your contractor so everyone fully understands the technology, if necessary.

Electrician Name_____

Phone_____

Company_____Email_____

The make and model of a kiln can vary from studio to studio. Some things to consider are the size of the kiln, the brand, etc. An example of one of the kilns used at some of the Cordovan Art School studios is shown below:

Paragon TnF-27-3

1.

1. 28" x 22 1/4" deep, Cone 10, 8.11 Cu. Ft.

2. 3-phase

3. 208 volts

4. 33 Amps

