

From MUD to MUG

by

STONEWARE

est. 1815

Louisville Stoneware Art Factory produces, on average, about 45 mugs a day — **11,000 per year.**

Follow the step-by-step process that keeps your *coffee hot* and your *fingers cool...*

DIRT

1,100 pounds of raw, dry *clay* are mixed with **200 gallons of water** to make a batch of clay.

GET A GRIP

1 of 3 handle-styles is made with slip clay (a thinned potter's clay) in a mold. 1 person attaches the handle to the caddy and the mug dries for **15 hours.**

JIGGERING

A thick, *Jigger clay* (a.k.a. potter's clay) is used to make mugs, one at a time, on a jigger wheel. After being formed, the handleless-mug is called a caddy and weighs about **22 ounces.**

BLUNGING

The blunger is a **250 gallon mixer** with two blades that spin in a **10-foot tall tank**, 8 feet of which are underground. The tank is always **at least half-full.** The clay is mixed for **nearly 18 hours** before being filtered of twigs and rocks.

FINISHING

1 person smooths, sands and preps each mug for painting.

It's now called "*greenware.*"

ART

The Stoneware mark and coat of protective wax is applied by hand to the bottom. **1 of 9 artists** uses colored glazes (we have **59 colors**) to "paint" a mug, which takes **6 minutes.**

GLAZE

It takes 1 person **25 seconds** to evenly spray each mug with either a white or transparent overglaze, which is done twice.

KILN

As many as 300 coffee mugs can fit in the kiln, which has **8 burners** that are turned on over a period of 14 hours heating up the kiln to **2,264°F.** Each mug spends **27 hours** in the kiln with 13 hours for cooling.

Q.C.

1 person sands and inspects the quality of each mug before it's ready for you to use for your morning cup of Joe.

SOLD

With more than 4 dozen patterns to choose from... you'll never look at your Stoneware mug the same again.

