



Polymer Clay Jewelry:
Mixed Media
with Christi Friesen

BAKING DO'S & DON'TS



In general

As a general rule of thumb, don't bake anything that will change in physical appearance in the oven. When in doubt, you can always test-bake a small amount of something to see how it handles the heat.

Natural stones & pearls

✓ Natural stones and pearls are fine to bake – with two exceptions.

✗ **Amber:** As a natural resin, amber is sensitive to heat and could darken significantly if baked. A better option is to add the amber later.

✗ **Opal:** Opal easily dries out and cracks. To circumvent opal's fragility, try using triplets with stabilizing quartz sheet or opal veins within a matrix instead.

Wood

The type of wood determines how it will handle the heat of an oven.

✓ **Dense, hard woods** handle the heat well and will be fine to bake.

✗ **Woods with more open fibers,** however, can crack during baking.



If in doubt, test a small piece of the wood in the oven for 30 minutes.

Heat-finished stones

✓ Heat-finished stones can withstand high temperatures, and thus won't present problems when baked.



Coatings

✗ Heat affects coatings. Swarovski pearls are made of glass, but they have a painted coating that will darken during baking.

Crystal, glass & metal

✓ Crystal or glass seed beads will be fine in the oven. All metals and plated metals are also good-to-go for baking, as the heat is not enough to affect them.

Fibers

✓ **Natural fibers** won't give you any trouble – feel free to bake those.



Synthetic fibers are OK to bake only if they have a high tolerance for heat. Yarns with rayon can melt, so you'll need to keep an eye on them.

Plastic, resin & acrylic



Many items in this category will not work for baking; you may have to experiment.



✗ **Resin** will turn a yellowish color or become wrinkly in the oven, so it's best to add resin after baking. **Plastics**, such as the acrylic material Lucite, will melt.

That being said, sometimes accidents result in a new look that you might find enticing!