A faster firing increases the risk of surface defects which can be magnified through washing or use.

Golds contain heavy solvents which make kiln ventilation a must for both health and safety reasons and to bring air into the kiln. Usually gold is fired alone to reduce contamination problems.

**Typical Gold Faults**

Most gold faults are surface defects. These include:

- **Cloudy appearance**
  - caused by inadequate ventilation or too heavy application, firing too fast or overfiring
- **Gold not adhering**
  - caused by underfiring or too heavy of an application
- **Gold is running**
  - caused if application is too heavy
- **Burnished gold is dull**
  - caused by insufficient burnishing or possible underfiring
- **Dull or scummy appearance**
  - caused by inadequate ventilation or possible overfiring
- **Cracking in finish**
  - caused by firing too fast
- **Pinholes and blemishes**
  - caused by poor quality of gold or contamination of gold
- **Blisters**
  - caused by heavy application

Application and proper firing is the key to great gold results. Gold should be applied in moderation using a very light coating. Be sure to vent the kiln until it glows red-hot. Use witness cones to verify the proper heatwork was achieved.

Want to learn more?

Read more about using golds in the Orton Firing Line and Technical Tips publications. Each issue is packed full of articles to help you learn more about firing. Members of the Orton Center For Firing receive these publications at no charge. Single copies are available to non-members at a per issue rate. Orton's 80-minute video, *Key Principles of Successful Firing*, is also an excellent resource on firing.

For information on Orton products, see your Orton dealer or distributor.

For information on the Center For Firing or publications, contact Orton, PO Box 2760, Westerville OH 43086, 614-895-2663.