

GLOSSARY OF BODY STYLES

Bone China

Bone china is the strongest of all ceramic bodies. It contains 50% bone ash, 25% clay and 25% stone. The powdered animal bone ash has calcium phosphate which makes the pottery strong and chip resistant. When bone ash is mixed with china clay and china stone the result is a white and translucent body. The unglazed pieces are fired at a high temperature and then the glazed pieces are fired at a lower temperature, making it soft to the touch.

Fine China

Fine china was developed by Royal Doulton in the 1950s as a more affordable alternative to bone china. In 1966 Royal Doulton received the Queen's Award for Industry for Technological Achievement in recognition of the development of this product. It is made from 40% china clay, 30% Cornish stone and 30% silica sand. It is fully vitrified, which gives it strength.

Porcelain

The general term for vitrified, white ceramic. In Britain, it generally refers to ware made from a feldspathic body and thus differentiates it from bone china. It usually consists of kaolin, quartz and feldspar. Kaolin provides plasticity, durability, consistency and adds whiteness. Quartz provides stability, and feldspar allows for vitrification of pieces (formation of a hard, glassy surface). The hard paste body is fired to a high temperature in the glaze firing stage.

Earthenware

Is a catch-all term for pottery made of a fairly coarse clay and fired at a relatively low temperature. Unlike china it is *not* vitrified but is porous and therefore would have to be glazed if it is to hold liquids. It's usually thick and heavy.

Stoneware

Hard clay fired at higher temperatures than earthenware. It is made of clay that is bit more finely ground than that used in earthenware and contains real stone. It is vitrified or semi-vitrified, generally naturally coloured, hard and opaque. Stoneware is a strong material, resistant to chipping.

Vitrification

When clay is fired one of the constituents – silica – is changed into glass and bonds all the other ingredients together. As vitrification proceeds the proportion of glassy bond increases and its porosity decreases. China is fully vitrified. Vitrification also means that the ceramic body will not absorb liquids or bacteria should it become damaged or chipped. All Royal Doulton products meet the standard of an extremely low water absorption of less than 0.2%

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Decal (also called a Transfer or Litho)

Specially prepared paper on which a design is printed and then covered in a plastic layer. After soaking in water the decal slides off the paper and is placed by hand onto the ware. Placement of the decal requires skill as the pieces must be joined together to form the whole, and all air bubbles must be squeezed out from under the decoration. During the firing the plastic layer is *fired* away and the colours of the pattern are absorbed into the glass.

Glaze

Glass-like coating that is applied to ware (applied by spraying or emersion), encasing it protectively so that it is impervious to liquids, hygienic, resistant to acids present in food and drink, resistant to scratches, and capable of being decorated in various ways. Glaze is a form of ground glass of very fine grain size suspended in water. Dried glaze on the ware (before it is fired) looks powdery.

In Glaze Decoration

All of our dinnerware patterns are done in glaze. Decoration (decals) are applied on top of the glazed surface and fired in.

Under Glaze Decoration

Decoration or colours are applied onto the biscuit body and then covered with glaze.

18/10 Stainless Steel

Refers to the ratio of chromium (18%) and nickel (10%) added to carbon steel in the stainless steel manufacturing process.