



MICHELLE GRIFFOUL STUDIOS, INC.

Green Manufacturing and Social Responsibility information for Michelle Griffoul Studios

At Michelle Griffoul Studios we are very proud of our attention to the details in our tile making process. We use this work ethic in our entire operation and in the way we live.

Our tile making process is as conservative as it can be in not creating waste in the first place. We try to be aware on a daily basis of our impact on the earth and lessen it in every way that we can.

Less than 17% of the tile made at M.G.S. is made with power driven equipment. That means 83% is really all MADE BY HAND. Our main source of energy here is muscle. When we say HANDMADE we really mean that hands roll out our slabs, not a motor, that hands cut our slabs of clay into the shapes that will become our tiles. Even our mosaics are hand cut. We recycle 99% of all of our materials used in making our beautiful tiles.

We glaze all of our tiles by hand with small brushes and hand rollers. We do not use any spray equipment because it creates a polluted atmosphere and too much overspray. It takes time and energy to reuse all of that overspray, so we just don't create it in the first place.

One of the advantages of being in California is the use of the sun. We air dry all of our tiles before we fire them. Our drying room is the back lot with the sunshine.

We fire our electric kilns in the middle of the night so there is less strain on the grid and the cost of electricity at that time, is 1/3 of the daytime rate. In the winter we have fans to push the warm air into the studio for heat. We do not have any air conditioning, so we work earlier in the morning to avoid the high heat of the afternoon. We use the natural air flow of the area and some fans to circulate the air. We do not use lights during the day as we have plenty of sunlight and skylights.

When we have tiles left over from various projects we use them in public art projects such as parks. We have donated thousands of dollars of tile to parks that are fully accessible to children with special needs. We work closely with our community and other communities to donate our tiles to their causes. We take great joy in doing this and nothing goes to waste.

We use only recycled boxes and we recycle all of our cardboard. We shred our unneeded office paper and use it for packing.

Our tiles are totally sustainable. They are all high fired and will outlast most buildings that they are in. They will not wear out and will not need to be replaced.

Michelle Griffoul is currently on a committee with the Tile Council of North America to create standards for a GREEN certification for tile.

We take great pride in being environmentally and socially responsible throughout our entire process, while making the most creative and beautiful tiles in the world.