

Ⓢ Tips for Using Vermiculite Board

Bullseye Vermiculite Board is stronger and more durable than most fiberboard used for making casting molds. Here are some tips for handling it successfully:

1. Work it like wood.

Vermiculite board can be cut or tooled like wood or particle board.

2. Control dust and wear a respirator.

Our vermiculite is certified asbestos free. Regardless, whenever generating dust, work in a well-ventilated area and wear a NIOSH-approved respirator.

3. Pre-fire vermiculite boards at 55°F (30°C) above process temperature.

After cutting to size, determine the process temperature for your intended project. Then fire at a rate of 500°F (278°C) per hour to a temperature approximately 55°F (30°C) higher than your planned process temperature. For example, if the process temperature for your intended project is 1525°F (829°C), you will add 55°F (30°C) to that temperature and pre-fire the vermiculite to 1580°F (860°C). Hold at that temperature for 30 minutes, then crash cool the kiln.

4. Line with fiber paper after pre-firing.

5. Handle the vermiculite carefully.

The boards can become brittle after multiple firings, so always treat it carefully.

6. Avoid using vermiculite boards as kiln shelves.

The boards are not designed to function as kiln shelves. Using them as such can put your project (and possibly your kiln) at risk.

7. Use it for projects!

See Bullseye Vermiculite Box Assembly on the reverse side of this page for assembly instructions.

Bullseye Vermiculite Boards

8240

1" × 24" × 36"
(2.5 × 61 × 91.4 cm)

8743

1" × 17" × 20"
(2.5 × 43 × 50.8 cm)

Bullseye Circle Dams

8848

10" (25.4 cm) square
8" (20 cm) round opening

8768

7" (17.7 cm) square
5.25" (13.3 cm) round opening



Ⓢ Vermiculite Box Assembly



Bullseye's vermiculite boxes come pre-cut and with a number of pilot holes already drilled. You will need to assemble, disassemble, and pre-fire the vermiculite components before using them in a glass project.

Phase 1: Build the sides of the box

1. Align a side that has a pre-drilled pilot hole with one that does not. (For Box 8247, this will mean aligning a long side with a short one.) Do this on top of the base, using the base as a guide to ensure the pieces are aligned correctly.
2. Using the existing pilot hole in one of the side pieces, drill through that hole and into the end of your second piece to create a new pilot hole. (Pilot holes help ensure that the screws do not overstress the material.) Use the pre-drilled pilot holes as handy guides for drilling the remaining pilot holes. Simply pass your drill through the pre-drilled hole to create a new pilot hole that will be aligned with the first. (Never push the drill so hard that you bend the material; this can cause the vermiculite to break.)
3. Using the aligned pilot holes, screw the two pieces together with stainless steel screws. (Non-stainless steel screws often come with metallic coatings that can contaminate your project and kiln during firing.)
4. Repeat this process with the third and fourth side pieces, arranging them on top of the base to ensure all side pieces are aligned correctly.

Phase 2: Attach the base to the assembled sides

5. Now place the base ON TOP of the assembled sides. Line it up squarely with the sides.
6. Drill through each of the four pre-drilled holes in the base to create pilot holes in the bottoms of each side piece.
7. Now that these pilot holes are drilled and aligned, use them to screw the base onto the sides.

Phase 3: Pre-fire the box and prepare it for a project

8. Disassemble the box, removing all stainless steel screws and setting them aside.
9. Fire the vermiculite pieces at a rate of 500°F (278°C) per hour to a temperature that is approximately 55°F (30°C) higher than the process temperature required by your specific project, hold for 30 minutes, then crash cool to room temperature.
10. Add a fiber paper liner and reassemble the vermiculite box. It is ready for a casting project!

Bullseye Vermiculite Boxes

8247
14" × 10" × 2.5"
(35.5 × 25.4 × 6.4 cm)

8249
10" × 10" × 4"
(25.4 × 25.4 × 10.2 cm)

Bullseye Ramp*

8847
7.75" (19.7 cm) wide.

*Can be used with either of Bullseye's Vermiculite Boxes. Item sold separately.