OBSIDIAN® MILLING BLOCKS
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Glaze:

Which glazes will work on Obsidian Milling Blocks?

Henry Schein® and Glidewell Direct both carry an aerosol spray glaze and a powder (air-brush applied) glaze that are recommended for Obsidian Milling Blocks. The Prismatic Universal Low Fusing Ceramic Fluorescent Spray Glaze needs to be shaken vigorously (for almost one minute). Please spray 10–12” away from the block and apply 1 or 2 even coats, while letting the glaze dry between applications. Do not use any other stain or glaze material outside of our recommended stain and glaze. DO NOT USE the IPS e.max® Ceram® or any other furnace cycles — you must use the Obsidian furnace cycle. Please see the Obsidian Milling Blocks User Manual at www.ObsidianCeramic.com/Resources for detailed stain and glaze instructions. All Obsidian products and accessories are listed on the Obsidian Product List.

Glaze Cycle / Furnace:

Can I use the IPS e.max Ceram quickfire cycle on Obsidian Milling Blocks?

NO. IPS e.max Ceram furnace cycles are not appropriate for Obsidian Milling Blocks. YOU MUST USE the Obsidian firing cycle to crystallize and glaze Obsidian Milling Blocks. Please see the Obsidian Milling Blocks IFU or User Manual available at www.ObsidianCeramic.com/Resources for detailed instructions.

Do I have to use a separate firing cycle for glazing?

You have the choice to crystallize and glaze in the same cycle together. It’s recommended by the manufacturer to do two separate cycles (like many other CAD/CAM blocks), but you can use just one cycle.

What should I use to support the milled crown during the heating cycle?

When firing an Obsidian block, ensure that it is filled with peg paste material (not covering the margin) and seated on a ceramic firing peg (DO NOT use a metallic peg) to stabilize the restoration during the heating cycle. Only use a standard honeycomb firing tray and a standard ceramic peg. Please see the Obsidian Milling Blocks User Manual at www.ObsidianCeramic.com/Resources for detailed instructions.

Stains:

What stains will work on Obsidian Milling Blocks?

Henry Schein and Glidewell Direct both carry a line of stains that are recommended for Obsidian Milling Blocks. All 15 shades of stain and a jar of powder glaze are available together in the Obsidian Stain and Glaze Starter Kit. Please see the Obsidian Milling Blocks User Manual at www.ObsidianCeramic.com/Resources for detailed stain and glaze instructions. All Obsidian products and accessories are listed on the Obsidian Product List.

Can IPS e.max Ceram be used as the layering material?

No. The thermal properties of the Obsidian material and the e.max material are different and therefore should not be used together.

Adjustments:

How do I adjust a crown after it’s been milled?

Adjusting Obsidian Milling Blocks is very similar to other glass ceramics; adjustments should be made before crystallization and it’s required that you fire the crown after adjusting a crystalized restoration. While adjusting, use low pressure and slow speed to avoid overheating the crown. Use only fine, extra fine or ultra-fine diamond tools (with grit size between 10–75 microns) and water for any adjustments. After adjustment, the crown should be polished. Failure to follow these and other recommendations may lead to edge and margin chipping, fractures, or local overheating.

Why no adjustments after crystallization?

CAD design work should ensure that a minimal amount of adjustment is necessary; we discourage making large adjustments to crowns after crystallization because we want to ensure that the minimum thickness enforced by the software is not violated with manual adjustments. In addition, using the wrong adjusting burs could cause the material to weaken. The Obsidian Milling Blocks User Manual has detailed information on recommended tools and adjustment.
Shades:

What shades are Obsidian Milling Blocks available in?

Obsidian Milling Blocks are available in the following 14 shades: A1, A2, A3, A3.5, B1, B2, B3, C1, C2, C3, D2, D3, BL1 and BL4.

Obsidian Milling Block shades are formulated to match the VITA Classical shade system, how do these shades convert to other shading systems?

Shade conversions aren’t exact. Obsidian Milling Blocks are made to match the VITA Classical shades, but it’s very difficult to say how these shades convert to other systems.

Are the shades blended?

Obsidian Milling Blocks are not blended or layered.

Milling:

Which mills will mill Obsidian Milling Blocks?

Obsidian Milling Blocks can be milled on an IOS TS150™ mill or Sirona’s CEREC® system mills.

When milling on a CEREC mill, which material options do I pick?

A material option for Obsidian Milling Blocks will not be available on the CEREC mill. It will be best to use the recommended design parameters as suggested in the Obsidian Milling Blocks User Manual and modify those parameters accordingly.

Translucency:

Why does Obsidian only have one translucency?

Glidewell Labs has found that customers prefer the natural translucency of Obsidian; offering higher translucency levels just adds complication and wasn’t necessary to meet doctors’ needs. When compared to other CAD/CAM blocks on the market, the translucency of Obsidian is in the medium range of high and low translucency blocks offered by other companies. With one translucency the doctor saves money by stocking less inventory, and the natural opacity of Obsidian provides enough translucency for esthetics, with enough opaqueness to block out discolored preps and post & core buildups.

Dimensions:

What are the block dimensions for Obsidian Milling Blocks?

Width x Depth x Height in millimeters: 14 x 12 x 18

To order additional manufacturer samples or for assistance with Obsidian, please call 888-303-3975.