

FREQUENTLY ASKED FURNACE TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

1) Where do I install my kiln?

Many of the small 120 volt models are designed to be placed on a workbench while the larger kilns are placed on the floor on a stand. For models placed on the floor, Underwriter Laboratories requires a minimum of 12 inches between the kiln and any combustible surface. Stone, tile, or concrete are preferred floor materials. On workbenches, we suggest placing the kiln on material such as stone or slate. Paragon provides extensive installation information in our Safe Installation for the Electric Kiln brochure which ships with every new kiln.

2) Is there any special electrical installation required?

Many of the small kilns operate on a 120 volt 15 amp standard household circuit so no special electrical installation is required. The large and medium sized kilns operate on either 208 volt or 240 volt service and may require the services of an electrician. Please check the electrical specifications information in the catalog for each model. With this information, a qualified electrician can assist you in planning the electrical installation of your new kiln. We highly recommend that the kiln be on its own dedicated circuit breaker.

3) How do I know what voltage to order for the kiln?

Most residential areas have 120 and 240 volt service available whereas many commercial facilities or institutions have 208 volts. Please have the voltage checked where the kiln will be installed prior to ordering. Kilns installed with incorrect voltage will not operate properly and are expensive to convert to the correct voltage.

4) Can I purchase a kiln that fires pottery and glass or silver clay and glass?

Paragon does offer dual purpose kiln designs in our Janus series that fire both glass and pottery. We also offer small kilns that fire both glass and silver clay like the SC2 and Caldera.

5) How much will my electric bill go up because of the kiln?

Kilns actually use less electricity than most people think. At \$0.10 per kilowatt hour, most of the smaller kilns like the SC2 will cost under \$0.90 to fire and the large pottery kilns like the Viking 28 may cost up to \$8.00 for a 12 hour firing.

6) Are the kilns safe?

Paragon's highest priority is to provide kilns that are safe for you to enjoy. 99% of the catalog standard kilns are tested to comply with Underwriter Laboratories Standard 499. The compliance requirements include quarterly site visits by UL inspectors to our manufacturing facility. However, because the kilns do reach very high temperatures, care must be taken when working near them. Installation by a qualified electrician that complies with the local electrical code and regular maintenance ensures safe operation.

7) Do I need to vent my kiln?

Most glass kilns do not need to be vented as glass generally does not generate odors that need to be exhausted. Ceramic and pottery kilns should be vented to remove the odors from the clay and glazes to the outside. Many building or mechanical codes require vents to be used with kilns so check with the local building authority if you have questions. Paragon offers the Vent Master from Orton.

8) What kind of digital controllers does Paragon Use?

Paragon only uses digital controllers from the Orton Ceramic Foundation, the industry leader in firing technology. The Sentry 2.0 and Sentry Express controllers have leading edge technology and the most options available of any controller on the market. The Sentry 2.0 has a 30 month replacement warranty.

9) How much space will the kiln require?

See the kiln spec pages in the catalog showing outside uncrated dimensions. Add 12" to each side as required by UL.