Basic Trimming Steps

- 1. Pottery should be leather hard. If necessary, run string under pot to remove from bat.
- 2. Determine foot placement. Mark bottom.
- 3. **Measure the depth** the difference between the inside floor and outside base, with chop sticks.
- 4. **Center pot**: Place pot upside down on wheel head. Use a bat for a wide bowl or plate. **Use slow speed**. With a pencil, strike a mark on pot, gently push pot in direction with no mark. Continue until pencil marks evenly all around pot.
- 5. Once pot is centered, do not move it! Fasten pot firmly to wheel with clay coils all around.
- 6. Mark foot ring: On bottom of pot, use a pencil to mark foot ring on predetermined spot. Make another ring $\frac{1}{2}$ inward.
- 7. **Trim foot**: With small loop tool, carve out inside of foot ring. Check the depth with chop sticks. Check often!
- 8. Trim sides: With large loop tool, trim excess clay from sides to shape and reveal form. Walls should be an even thickness.
- 9. Finish and refine trimming. Go over pot with a damp sponge to smooth ridges, bumps and burrs. This eliminates sanding, which creates clay dust.

 Clay dust is harmful to breathe! Avoid any action that creates clay dust.
- 10. Sign your name inside foot ring, with a pencil.

Remember:

- Take time to measure accurately.
- Check measurements often while trimming.
- All aspects of a well thrown pot should be the same thickness.
- When trimming the foot do not make it thinner than the rest of the pot.
- If you trim your pot or the foot too thin, it may crack when drying.
- Choose a foot to match the form raised, incised, or flat (no foot).