

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).