What is Engobe?

An Engobe is a Non glaze slip. It is a material similar to a slip with lower clay content, higher proportion of flux, filler and in some cases a colorant. Engobe creates an additional layer on the tiles which makes it more waterproof and stain resistant.

What are the Specifications?

Engobes have an intermediate composition between body & glazes. Engobes are like bodies, there should be little or no frit or boron source in the recipe. Moreover, excessive flux will give the engobe a greater fired shrinkage than the body, introducing stresses that can severely test their bond. All engobes have two primary characteristics (compared to glaze):

- High content of plastic materials like clays & kaolins
- High opacity & high content of crystalline materials

What are the Parameters?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial Number</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Viscosity</td>
<td>60-90 Sec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Density</td>
<td>1.88-1.90 gm/cc</td>
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What are the Uses of Engobe in Ceramics?

The tile industry uses the largest volumes of engobe by far, these are employed as opaque barriers between white bodies and the overlying glaze. They are applied by automated pour or dipping methods. Engobes are so valuable to the tile industry because they enable the use of locally available red & brown burning bodies.

What is the Purpose of Applying an Engobe?

The purpose of engobe is to hide the color of the ceramic body and eliminate reactions and associated defects caused by the direct contact between the body & glaze. It helps to improve waterproofing, to give color to a tile, to improve the surface texture and to provide a decoration.