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How To Avoid Thermocouple Reading Errors

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When your thermocouple is not reading correctly and giving you errors, it can cause problems with your firings. There are many reasons why a thermocouple may not be giving correct readings. It's important to maintain and place the thermocouple correctly, among other things, to ensure proper readings. Today we're going to go over a few helpful hints to prevent getting errors or incorrect readings with your thermocouple.

Important things to remember for maintenance and placement are:

- Make sure your thermocouple is properly placed.
 - The tip should stick approximately 1 1/2 inches into the kiln chamber.
 - If using a single thermocouple, place it central to the chamber rather than the top or bottom of the kiln.
 - Be sure that the hole through the kiln wall and TC is a snug fit. Any gap should be filled with high temperature insulation.
- Replace your thermocouple on a regular basis if you are doing a large number of firings. If the thermocouple is bent, cracked, or discolored, replace it.
- Fire with witness cones occasionally to check for the thermocouples accuracy.
- Check for any thermocouple offsets you may have set on the controller. When a new thermocouple is connected, there should be no need for offset.

Important things to remember when changing thermocouples:

- Ensure that the leads of the thermocouple are correctly connected to the board. If they are reversed, the controller will read Error 6, 22, or 26 (E-6, E-22, or E-26).
- Be sure the thermocouple wire and thermocouple match, and that the controller is set for the proper thermocouple. If the controller is set for Type K but the jumper has been moved, it will give an Error 9 (E-9).
- Ensure that the leads are properly secured to the board.

Check back next time for more helpful tips and topics!

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