Sial art

Procedure: What to do if your clay has frozen

1. Let thaw slowly

Place the still wrapped clay **in a temperate place** (18–22 °C).

❌ Do not use direct heat sources (radiator, oven, sun).

Recommended time: **24 to 48 hours**, depending on the size of the block of clay.

👉 A slow thaw prevents internal cracks and overly dry areas.

2. Knead carefully (very important)

Once the clay is completely thawed:

Cut it into several pieces.

Knead **it vigorously** (kneading in a spiral or ram).

Objective:

- To re-homogenize humidity
- To eliminate water pockets from frost
- To restore the clay's plasticity

Allow **5 to 10 minutes of kneading** per cut piece.

3. Check plasticity

Tests the clay:

Make a small coil and fold it
Lightly crush a plate between the fingers
✅ if it is soft and uniform → OK
⚠️ if it is: granular, brittle, spongy
➡️ Take the next step.

4. Rehydrate if necessary

If the clay has become unbalanced in water:

Add **a little water** (gradually, never all at once)
Seal the clay in an airtight plastic bag
Let stand **for 12 to 24 hours**

Knead again.

💡 Tip: it is better to make several small corrections rather than one too strong.

5. Resting time (optional, but recommended)

Wrap the kneaded clay
Let it sit for **24 hours;** this allows the moisture to be evenly distributed.

6. Do a test before, an important part

Before you start:

Make a small test sample

Let it dry

Verify for:

- Abnormal cracks
- Deformations
- Unusual texture

When is clay unsalvageable?

Rare, but possible if:

It has frozen **several times**

It has become powdery or totally unstructured

It separates into mud/water + hard blocks that are impossible to homogenize

In this case, it can sometimes be **recycled into a slip but** not used as is.