



TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES



About the Artisans

Vilaco (Viet Lam)

Vilaco is a private export company that works with cooperatives in and around Ho Chi Minh City to produce and market ceramics, lacquerware and baskets. This work supports artisans in six family workshops, 60 percent of whom are women. Vilaco offers interest-free loans for repairing tools and machines, advances of 30-50% for orders and assistance with new product designs.

Stormy Weather Planter (Medium)

Glazed and shiny in a rich, summer storm hue, this medium sized planter with matching saucer will keep your favourite foliage looking great. Place on patios or decks in the summer and winter it indoors to keep safe. Each is handcrafted and glazed in Vietnam by the artisans with Vilaco, a fair trade export company that offers interest-free loans and product assistance.



Special Details:

The town of Bat Trang – located about 13km southeast of the capital, Hanoi – is well known throughout Vietnam for its beautiful ceramics, which harmonize the best of modelling, sculpture, design, and colour. In the late 15th century, Thanh Hoa potters founded Bat Trang, settling there because of the rich deposits of white clay. In this relatively small town there are at least 2,000 families representing approximately 10,000 artisans.

While blue and white dinnerware and tiny ornaments characterized by intricately-detailed patterns remain the traditional style, the potters create a wide variety of products featuring an array of shapes, colours, and sizes – some vases even as large as 7 ft tall!

To produce these exquisite ceramics, artisans first mix the clay, then pour it by hand into molds. Once these molds are dried and the seams are smoothed away, each individual piece is painstakingly hand-detailed by an artisan. Small details are attached with clay slip, and designs are skillfully painted on by free-hand. After glazes (made using ground-up recycled bottles) have been applied, the pieces are then set aside to dry and stacked inside the kiln to begin the firing process.

Materials:

ceramic

Travel the world with each visit to Ten Thousand Villages.

Learn how Fair Trade really makes a difference. Our goal is to provide vital, fair income to artisans by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Ten Thousand Villages sells product from more than 30 countries, providing work for nearly 60,000 people around the world.

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