

## Original Prompt and Response (unedited)

In 250 words, what is involved in throwing a cylinder?

Throwing a cylinder refers to the process of shaping a cylindrical form on a potter's wheel using clay. It's one of the fundamental skills in ceramics and involves several key steps.

First, the potter **wedges** the clay to remove air bubbles and ensure even consistency. Next, they place the clay on the **center of the wheel** and begin **centering** it by applying pressure with both hands while the wheel spins. This step is crucial, as off-center clay leads to uneven forms.

Once centered, the potter opens the form by pressing thumbs or fingers down into the middle to create a hole, then **pulls the walls outward** to establish the base width. With the base set, they begin **pulling up the walls**, gently squeezing the clay between fingers from the inside and outside as the wheel spins. This motion is repeated in stages to gradually increase the height and maintain even thickness.

During the process, the potter uses **water and tools** (like ribs and sponges) to keep the clay smooth and workable. A **rib** helps refine the shape and surface, while a **needle tool** may be used to trim the rim. The final step involves **shaping and smoothing** the cylinder, then **cutting it off the wheel** using a wire tool.

Throwing a cylinder requires practice, control, and attention to detail. It lays the foundation for more complex forms like mugs, vases, and pitchers, and is often used to teach fundamental wheel-throwing techniques.

## Edited Prompt and Response (edited for fact-checking)

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## Rewritten Prompt and Response (rewritten for personal voice and fact-checking)

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A cylinder is one of the most basic and important forms in learning how to throw. Cylinders lay the [foundation](#) for almost every other [form](#) (with the exclusion of plates) as well as techniques like pulling walls.

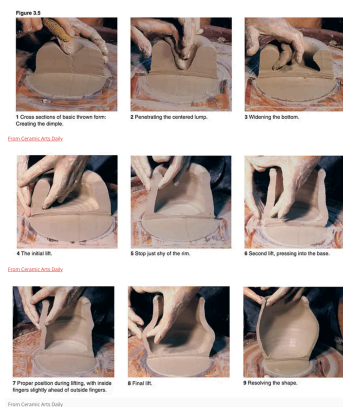
To start, the potter will wedge the clay. [Wedging](#) is important, as it works out air bubbles and makes the clay soft (or “warm”) by evening out moisture. Following that, the potter will place their clay on the wheel (the clay should be shaped like an egg, and the point goes down for extra security). Next, the potter will cone the clay. Coning clay is an [extension](#) of wedging, and requires the potter to bring the clay up and down through applying pressure in the proper areas.

After the potter has coned a few times, they can [open](#) the piece up. To open the piece up, they will create a dimple on the cross sections to find the middle. Then, they can push down towards the center at an angle, and pull the piece towards themselves to open the walls up.

Once the piece is opened, the potter will begin to pull the walls up. To do this, the potter will gently pinch the walls and pull them up at the speed of the wheel. The inside fingers should be slightly above the outside fingers, and the potter should be able to feel the lump of clay they are pulling up (until they reach the rim). This step may be repeated until the walls are at the desired thinness.

Finally, the potter will [trim](#) off the excess clay at the bottom of the piece using a wooden knife. At this point, they will wire their piece off of the wheel.

While cylinders seem unexciting, they can be [beautiful](#) and are an essential skill.



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