

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF CERAMICS



Dinnerware has come a long way from being a gloriously unstylish necessity to a chic, collectible item that is also meant for customary use. Gone are those days when the ladies of the household used to set imported and mostly mismatched crockery on the table. Nowadays, they make a considerable effort to set the table as beautifully as possible with unique patterned dinnerware that stands out to all the guests.

LIFE STYLE



It has almost become a norm for every family to own at least one beautifully crafted dinnerware helping to make every occasion elegant, tasteful and classy. The best part of the dinnerware movement is that the items are mostly locally manufactured and do not have to be imported like in the yesteryears.

Dinnerware can be mostly classified as three types: earthenware, porcelain and bone china. Earthenware is the most fragile and the primordial form. The latest versions are the fired-up, white clay also popularly known as porcelain and a better version to the porcelain are the more translucent, bone china.

Bangladesh, currently houses more than 20 ceramics plants. Majority of the production, after meeting local demands are exported to developed countries like the EU, USA and the Middle East. The first ceramic plant was established in Bogra, in the year 1958. Today, the country has come a long way and there are many companies in this profitable field of business, including foreign investors, contributing considerably to the GDP of the country.

Ceramics and bone china collection is an art form that can only be mastered with enough experience. First time collectors need to know few tips and tricks. Ceramics are available in three possible options:

Single sets - 12 piece set that includes everything for one person

Open houses - where every piece is sold separately and people can mix and match from different designs and make their own collection

Box sets - 36 piece sets, 52 piece sets, etc.

Each of these box sets is placed in a way to meet the demands of at least six people. If someone needs more than they can make additions from the open house option; if the specified designs are not available than orders can be placed as most manufacturers accept orders and take a week's time to provide the demanded quantities of items.

Before purchasing any ceramics dinnerware, one must be clear about what they want. If someone's into elaborate designs then definitely a floral imprint or a polka dotted modern imprint is

not meant for them. To understand better, few extra pointers are provided -

Floral imprints/polka dots: Good for tea parties, snacks service, baby showers, bridal showers, etc.

Gold patterns/silver patterns/intricate details/22 carat gold - dinner parties, glamorous occasions, etc.

Hand painted blueprints - personal collection/small gathering of family and friends

Local popular prints like Jamdani/batik prints/Islamic motifs, etc. - Good for serving local food

Solid colours/abstract art - outdoor/thematic parties

Another piece of advice for a collector is that

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bone china might be very expensive but it is also lighter to handle and more durable. Few may confuse between porcelain and china, both, are the same thing, with only bone china being different. Bone china has a warmer tone whereas regular ceramics or porcelain is simply white. The former, offers a slightly more elegant appeal due to the lighter weight and body composition.

In case someone easily gets confused they are advised to do some research before making the actual purchase; maybe visit the ceramic shops or browse online to get some basic idea.