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Custom Clay-Composite Poker Chips: Specify, Sample and Inspect a Set Built for Real Play

Product Image













Details

Custom clay-composite poker chips are molded composite chips that carry your logo, denominations and colors on a label, inlay, hot stamp or direct print. They are not compression-molded casino clay. Fix the weight, diameter, edge spots, artwork area and acceptance tests in writing, then approve a physical sample before you pay for production.

Who Orders Custom Clay-Composite Chips, and for Which Table? [↑](#)

Most people shopping for custom clay poker chips have already outgrown a light plastic starter set. They want a table that looks, sounds and stacks like a card room. The largest group is weekly home-game hosts running six to nine seats with rebuys. A practical sizing rule is 50-75 chips per player plus

a 20–30% bank, which puts a 6–9 seat table at roughly 650–1,000 chips, according to [Poker Foundry's selection guide](#)^[1]. Club and bar-league organizers reorder the same denominations for each series, so a repeatable proof file matters more to them than the first box.

A second group buys chips to give away: corporate gifts, groomsmen sets, charity casino nights and sponsorship bags. One buyer put 150 logo chips into a golf tournament sponsorship bag and wrote, "Everyone I have handed out my business card poker chips to are impressed" ([verified review, 2024-12-09](#)^[2]). A smaller third group is collectors, who debate edge-spot colors and denomination traditions. Each group measures success differently, so state your use case on the first line of the request. A host needs playable denominations, a marketer needs a keepsake, and a collector needs finish quality.

Why Do So Many "Clay" Chip Orders Disappoint? [↑](#)

The problem starts with one word. Sellers print "clay" on compression-molded casino chips, on injection-molded plastic with mineral filler, and on composite chips with a metal insert and a center label. Buyers who order by the word alone usually find out which one they bought after they have paid.

The failures are specific. A PokerChipper member said budget "China clay" chips felt close to casino chips when new, but "After a few years, the chips started physically degrading: flaking, chipping very easily" ([PokerChipper, 2024-08-12](#)^[3]). A reviewer of one custom shop reported "the design was printed way off center... The customer we designed the chips for rejected the chips" ([Trustpilot, 2026-09-03](#)^[4]). Another buyer was promised delivery on April 14 for a charity golf event. The date then slipped to 9 PM on April 20, the same day as a noon start, and the shipment carried the wrong ZIP code ([Trustpilot, 2026-04-24](#)^[5]). Policies such as "Returns are not authorized for custom made products" ([PokerChips.com FAQ](#)^[6]) leave the buyer carrying these losses. Even a perfect print can fail at the table. One commenter warned that a non-standard color scheme "will certainly make it almost impossible to spot a dirty stack" ([Reddit, 2025-11-24](#)^[7]).

A better adjective will not fix this. A disciplined order will. This page describes our Custom Clay-Composite Poker Chips accurately, as a composite body with a personalized face. It then walks through the spec sheet, artwork preflight, sample gate, inspection thresholds and shipping controls that prevent those failures. Minimum order, production time and unit weight are not published here. Each one is stated in your written quote and verified on a physical sample before production.



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What Does "Clay" Actually Mean on a Custom Chip Quote? [↑](#)

No industry definition exists to lean on. A Poker Chip Forum explainer puts it bluntly: "There are no official standards as to what 'clay' means, so as a marketing term it's meaningless" ([Poker Chip Forum, 2021-03-27^{\[8\]}](#)). In practice, three constructions share the label.

Compression-molded clay is a mineral composite pressed in a mold, with the inlay set during molding. Classic Poker Chips lists a 300-chip minimum, roughly 3 to 12 months of lead time, full prepayment and prices from \$1.35 per chip (effective 2026-07-01). It also warns that "all injection-molded chips are plastic" ([Classic Poker Chips custom page^{\[9\]}](#)). **Injection "clay"** is filled plastic. ChipLab says its clay chips are "a mix of polypropylene (a plastic) and barium sulfate" and "not compression-molded clay chips," with a 40 mm diameter, 13.5 g weight and 27 mm print area ([ChipLab comparison^{\[10\]}](#)). **Clay-composite**, the construction of this product, is a molded plastic body, often around a metal insert, finished with a label, inlay, hot stamp or direct print. Custom Made Casino describes mainstream home composites at 11.5 g and heavy versions at 13.5–14 g ([Custom Made Casino weights guide^{\[11\]}](#)). Check weight claims physically. One buyer cut open a 13–14 g sample and "found that it is a metal slugged center" ([Poker Chip Forum, 2024-09-20^{\[12\]}](#)).

Heavier does not mean more "casino." Automatic Poker reports that Las Vegas casino chips range

from 8.5 to 10.6 grams and calls the 11.5 g rule "a myth" ([Automatic Poker, 2020-03-11^{\[13\]}](#)). Nevada Gaming Commission Regulation 12, §12.040, sets licensed casino chips at 0.130 in thick and 1.55 in across, which is 3.302 mm by 39.37 mm. It sets no weight and no formula ([Nevada Regulation 12^{\[14\]}](#)). The rule binds licensed operators, not home or promotional chips, but it explains why 39 mm is the reference size.

Reference	Diameter	Weight	Source of mass
Nevada licensed casino chips	1.55 in (39.37 mm)	Not regulated	Not specified
Las Vegas casino chips	About 39 mm	8.5–10.6 g	Body material
Home clay-composite, mainstream	39–40 mm	11.5 g	Metal insert
Home clay-composite, heavy	39–40 mm	13.5–14 g	Larger metal insert
Injection "clay" (ChipLab)	40 mm	13.5 g	Mineral filler, per vendor

Use the table to choose a target, not to guess one. If you want the denser feel of an 11.5–14 g composite, ask for it. If you want handling closer to casino chips, ask for that instead. Your chips' actual weight and diameter are confirmed on the sample. Never mix 39 mm and 40 mm chips in one rack.



How Do You Build a Spec Sheet That Survives Production?[↑]

A buildable spec answers seven questions before anyone draws artwork. Work through them in order, because each answer limits the next.

1. **Chip count.** Size by seats, not by how full the case looks. Start from 50–75 chips per player plus a bank, then check the total against the minimum in your quote.
2. **Denominations.** A common cash-game ladder is 0.25 / 1 / 5 / 25 / 100. Use conventional colors so dirty stacks stand out, give each denomination its own edge-spot color or pattern, and size numerals to read at arm's length. One critique of a custom set noted, "The denomination values can barely be read on the chips" ([Reddit, 2025-07-28^{\[15\]}](#)).
3. **Diameter and rack fit.** Pick 39 mm or 40 mm and buy trays to match. Amazon reviewers of a

popular acrylic tray report 40 mm chips not fitting 39 mm slots and 11.5 g chips sitting high. How many chips a row or case holds depends on real dimensions and loading, so verify it with the sample.

4. **Face treatment.** Choose a label or inlay, a hot stamp, or full-color direct print. The tradeoffs are below.
5. **Artwork files.** Supply one print-ready file per denomination and run the preflight below.
6. **Construction statement.** Require the quote to state the molding method, whether there is a metal insert, and how the face is applied. A quote that says only "clay" or "casino weight" is incomplete.
7. **Sample gate.** Never approve from a render. A community buying guide advises, "Buy samples before buying a whole set, because chips look and feel different than they do online" ([Reddit buying guide, 2023-06-21](#)^[16]). Compare candidates on the same table, with the same deck, under the same light.

Face treatment sets the limits of your design. On clay-style chips, customization usually stays in the center. Poker Foundry says that on its clay line "you customise the printed label inlay only," and the body and edge spots come in factory-standard colors ([Poker Foundry edge-spot guide](#)^[17]). The PokerChips.com FAQ likewise offers edge printing on ceramic chips but not on clay. A label is a separate layer, and one owner cautioned that under prolonged heat "the center stickers can lift or bubble" ([Reddit, 2023-01-18](#)^[18]). Direct print with a UV coat has no edge to lift, but it has its own print-area limit: ChipLab cites 27 mm on its clay chip and 32 mm on its composite. Confirm the printable diameter on your sample before you finalize the art.



Preflight prevents most proof disputes. Send a table of denominations and quantities, the chosen diameter, and print-ready art. Use vector files where possible, or high-resolution raster sized to the printable circle. Keep fine lines, small text and dark fills away from the trim edge. Check the smallest numeral on the physical sample at table distance, not on a screen. Name colors by the supplier's swatch codes; even [Classic Poker Chips](#) admits that "Screens never quite match clay." Approve the final proof in writing, because nothing is locked until you do.



How Should Production, Inspection and Shipping Be Controlled? [↑](#)

Freeze the proof once you approve it. Only three changes should leave the order in place: a misprint, a wrong color code or a short count. A new diameter, mold or edge layout counts as a new order. Clay-composite chips are typically molded, often around a metal insert, then trimmed and finished with a label, hot stamp, or direct print and UV coat. Your quote should state in writing which of these applies and how long production takes. Plan backward from any fixed event date and leave time for one remake. If the event is less than about 90 days away, compression-molded clay is the wrong route given its 3-12 month queue.



On arrival, inspect at least 20 chips per denomination using measurable checks. The thresholds below are suggested starting points to write into your order. Set the final values against the approved sample.

Check	Method	Reject when
Weight	Weigh 10 chips per denomination	A chip is more than about ± 0.3 g off target
Stack height	Compare 25-chip stacks across colors	Denominations show a visible height gap
Face alignment	Inspect label or print centering	Off-center enough to hurt reading; label above the lip
Roundness and flatness	Roll on the table; stack 20 and check for light gaps	Wobbling, warping or spinners
Edges and surface	Inspect under bright light	Chipping, cracks, flaking or lifting labels
Color and count	Match the approved swatch; count each denomination	Wrong color code or short quantity

Stack height affects play, not just looks. In one forum case, a 500-chip set showed a "1.5 chip difference between 25xWhite and 25xPurple" sleeves and also chipped in use ([Poker Chip Forum, 2017-12-01^{\[19\]}](#)). Keep functional defects separate from normal variation. A long-time collector estimated true defects across several hand-made clay sets at "likely... less than 1%," and treated small differences between chips as a craft trait ([Poker Chip Forum, 2023-09-05^{\[20\]}](#)). Record counts and photos within seven days. Before you reorder, reassess after about 30 days of real play for heat bubbling, slipperiness and sound.



Shipping damage is a common complaint and an avoidable one. One buyer found cushioning on only one side and wrote that "Umpteen chips were cracked and/or destroyed" ([Poker Chip Forum, 2024-05-08^{\[21\]}](#)). Chips should be held in place on both sides and kept away from the box walls. The 2023 collector thread also notes that summer heat during long transit can warp even compression clay. In summer, ask for faster shipping and same-day pickup. Verify the ZIP+4 and photograph the shipment within 48 hours. For reorders, reuse the approved proof and swatch record, and ask whether the run may come from a different material batch. Otherwise the colors may not match your first set.



Which Chip Route Fits Your Budget and Deadline?↑

Four different buying routes show up for the same "clay" search. Never compare them on a single price curve.

Route	Construction	Typical spec	Minimum and timing	Best fit
Compression-molded clay (CPC)	Pressed mineral composite, molded inlay	39 or 44 mm; weight not published	300 chips; about 3–12 months; prepaid	Collector sets, patient clubs
Injection "clay" (ChipLab)	Polypropylene plus barium sulfate, direct print and UV	40 mm, 13.5 g	25 chips for \$32	Small leagues, trial runs
Clay-composite (this product)	Molded body, often metal insert; label, stamp or print	Confirmed on sample	Confirmed in quote; market example 100 chips, 1–3 weeks after proof	Home games, gifts, events
Ceramic	Molded body, edge-to-edge print	39 mm ≈ 10 g	Market example 50 chips, 1–3 weeks after proof	Full-bleed logos and photos

The market examples come from Poker Chip Lounge. It lists a 50-chip minimum for custom ceramic, 100 for custom clay, and shipping "within 1–3 weeks after proof approval" ([Poker Chip Lounge custom collection](#)^[22]). These figures show typical ranges, not our terms. Choose ceramic when the design must run edge to edge. Clay-composite keeps the traditional center-art look at a lower entry point than compression clay.

Use price as a sanity check. One r/poker reply put real clay at "\$1.20+ per chip, so whatever you are seeing as \$75 for 500 chips aren't actually clay" ([Reddit, 2023-04-03](#)^[23]). At the list prices on the [CPC custom page](#) (effective 2026-07-01), 300 plain chips at \$1.35 cost \$405 and 300 inlay chips at \$1.90 cost \$570. Both totals exclude a 3.5% electronic-payment fee and freight. Treat durability figures as vendor claims. Ratings such as about 50,000 impact cycles for ceramic and 25,000 for clay inlays come from sellers, not from ASTM or ISO testing ([Get Custom Poker Chips, 2026-08-12](#)^[24]). One more caveat applies to gift buyers. If you market chips as a children's party set, any children's product with accessible parts above 100 ppm total lead is a banned hazardous substance, and paint has a separate 90 ppm limit ([CPSC lead guidance](#)^[25]). Adult poker sets generally fall outside that rule.

Key Takeaways↑

- **"Clay" is a marketing term with no official definition** — 0 official standards ([Source](#))
- **Casino chips are lighter than most home "clay" chips** — 8.5–10.6 g in Las Vegas versus 11.5–14 g home composites ([Source](#))
- **Nevada sets chip size, not chip weight** — 1.55 in (39.37 mm) diameter, 0.130 in (3.302 mm) thick ([Source](#))
- **Retail compression clay is slow and prepaid** — 300-chip minimum, about 3–12 months, from \$1.35 per chip ([Source](#))
- **Injection "clay" is filled plastic** — polypropylene plus barium sulfate, 40 mm, 13.5 g ([Source](#))
- **Clay-style customization usually stops at the center** — label inlay only, factory-standard edge spots ([Source](#))
- **Impact-cycle ratings are seller claims** — about 50,000 for ceramic and 25,000 for clay

inlays, not ASTM or ISO ([Source](#))

Ready to Proof a Set Your Players Will Trust? [↑](#)

Custom clay-composite chips succeed when the order is specific. That means an honest construction statement, denominations players can read at a glance, a physical sample that settles weight and diameter, and acceptance thresholds agreed before production starts. Minimum order, production time and unit weight all belong in your written quote. **Request a quote with your player count, denominations, chip diameter and event date, and ask for a physical sample before paying any production deposit.**

^[1]Poker Foundry selection guide: chips-per-player and bank sizing rule. [↵](#)

^[2]Verified buyer review: 150 logo chips used in golf sponsorship bags. [↵](#)

^[3]PokerChipper: China clay flaking and chipping after several years. [↵](#)

^[4]Trustpilot, Poker Chip Lounge: off-center print rejected by end customer. [↵](#)

^[5]Trustpilot, PokerChips.com: event delivery missed, wrong ZIP code. [↵](#)

^[6]PokerChips.com FAQ: no custom returns; no edge printing on clay. [↵](#)

^[7]Reddit r/poker: non-standard colors hide dirty stacks. [↵](#)

^[8]Poker Chip Forum: no official standard defines "clay." [↵](#)

^[9]Classic Poker Chips: compression clay minimum, lead time, pricing and fees. [↵](#)

^[10]ChipLab: clay chips are polypropylene and barium sulfate. [↵](#)

^[11]Custom Made Casino: home composite weights and metal inserts. [↵](#)

^[12]Poker Chip Forum: cut sample revealed a metal slug center. [↵](#)

^[13]Automatic Poker: Las Vegas chips weigh 8.5–10.6 g. [↵](#)

^[14]Nevada Regulation 12: §12.040 chip thickness and diameter. [↵](#)

^[15]Reddit r/poker: unreadable denominations and identical edge spots. [↵](#)

^[16]r/pokerchips buying guide: buy samples before a full set. [↵](#)

^[17]Poker Foundry edge-spot guide: clay customization limited to label inlay. [↵](#)

^[18]Reddit r/poker: center stickers lift or bubble under heat. [↵](#)

^[19]Poker Chip Forum: stack-height mismatch across denominations. [↵](#)

^[20]Poker Chip Forum: defect rate estimate and heat warping in transit. [↵](#)

^[21]Poker Chip Forum: one-sided cushioning caused cracked chips. [↵](#)

^[22]Poker Chip Lounge: ceramic and clay minimums; 1–3 week shipping. [↵](#)

^[23]Reddit r/poker: price threshold for genuine clay chips. [↵](#)

^[24]Get Custom Poker Chips: seller impact-cycle ratings, ceramic versus clay. [↵](#)

^[25]CPSC: 100 ppm total lead limit for children's products. [↵](#)

Product Option