

BENTONITE, WYOMING

SiO ₂	49.40%
Al ₂ O ₃	20.40
Na ₂ O ₃	0.43
K ₂ O	1.12
CaO	1.80
MgO	2.55
TiO	0.40
Fe ₂ O ₃	3.70

Geographical Source:

Wyoming, South Dakota, Texas

Geological Source:

Alteration of volcanic ash to montmorillonite clay material in marine environment during and after Cretaceous period (100-50 million years ago.) Volcanic ash derives from ancient eruptions high in magnesium and/or iron. Also results from hydrothermal and surface weathering of igneous rock high in magnesium and iron minerals.

Characteristics:

Bentonite can be used as a glaze suspension agent and to shorten glaze drying times. Bentonite contributes to increased clay body plasticity but also contributes to greater shrinkage due to its great absorption of water.

Bentonite should always be mixed well with warm water before adding to a glaze or clay body. Bentonite should be used in quantities less than 3% of the total mass of the glaze or clay body.