

# SILICA

**Geographical Source:**

Central Pennsylvania  
West Virginia

**Geological Source:**

Oriskany sandstone, (Eastern U.S.) deposited in Appalachian Mountain region during early Devonian times (400 million years ago).

**Characteristics:**

Silica is the fundamental oxide of glass. Large amounts of silica in glazes create hard and durable surfaces. Large quantities also act as a stiffening agent, slowing down the flow of glazes. In small amounts, silica can enter into a eutectic relationship with other materials and actually increase glaze melt and fluidity.

**Melting Point: 3110° F**