

Mineral Industry Surveys

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DIRECTORY OF COMPANIES MINING SPECIALTY CLAYS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 2000

An estimated 233 companies operated 650 clay pits in 42 States and Puerto Rico. The 10 leading producer States, in descending order of tonnage, were Georgia, Wyoming, Alabama, North Carolina, Texas, Ohio, Missouri, South Carolina, Tennessee, and California.

The leading producing companies of specialty clays, in alphabetical order, were American Colloid Co. (bentonite), Engelhard Corp. (fuller's earth and kaolin), J.M. Huber Corp. (kaolin), IMERYS (kaolin), and Thiele Kaolin Co. (kaolin).

The amount of clay sold or used by domestic producers in 1999 was 42.2 million metric tons (Mt) valued at \$1.57 billion. Production of ball clay was 1.2 Mt; bentonite, 4.07 Mt; common clay and shale, 24.8 Mt; fire clay, 402,000 metric tons (t); fuller's earth, 2.56 Mt; and kaolin, 9.16 Mt.

The major producing States, by tonnage, were Tennessee for

ball clay, Alabama for nonswelling bentonite, Wyoming for swelling bentonite, Missouri for fire clay, Florida and Georgia for attapulgite-type fuller's earth, Mississippi for montmorillonite-type fuller's earth, and Georgia for kaolin.

Major domestic markets for the clays were floor and wall tile and sanitaryware for ball clay (30% and 25%, respectively); foundry sand (25%), pet waste absorbent (22%), drilling mud (19%), and pelletizing (15%) for bentonite; refractories (81%) for fire clay; absorbent uses (72%) for fuller's earth; and paper coating and filling (56%) for kaolin.

Imports of clays increased to 90,400 t from 86,400 t in 1998. Kaolin and artificially activated bentonite accounted for 63% and 19% of the imports. Exports decreased to 4.8 Mt from 5.23 Mt in 1998. Kaolin accounted for 69% of the exports.

Ball Clay Producers, by State¹

State and Company	County
Kentucky	
IMERYS (Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co.)	Carlisle, Graves
Old Hickory Clay Co.	Graves
Mississippi	
IMERYS (Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co.)	Panola
Unimin Corp. (United Clays Inc.)	Panola
Tennessee	
IMERYS (Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co.)	Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Weakley
Old Hickory Clay Co.	Henry, Weakley
H.C. Spinks Clay Co. Inc.	Carroll, Henry, Weakley
Unimin Corp. (United Clays Inc.)	Carroll, Weakley
Texas	
Unimin Corp. (United Clays of Texas Inc.)	Cherokee

¹Company names in parentheses are previous owners of the mining operations.

Bentonite Producers, by State and Type

State and Company	County
Alabama	
American Colloid Co.	Lowndes
Arizona	
Engelhard Corp.	Apache
United Catalysts Inc.	Apache
Vanderbilt Minerals Co.	Yavapai
California	
* Protech Minerals Inc.	Inyo
Rheox	San Bernardino
Vanderbilt Minerals Co.	Inyo
Wilbur-Ellis Co.	San Benito
Colorado	
First Bentonite	Fremont
Mississippi	
Engelhard Corp.	Monroe
Nanocor Inc.	Monroe
Unimin Corp.	Monroe
Montana	
* American Colloid Co.	Carter
* Bentonite Performance Minerals	Carter
Nevada	
American Colloid Co.	Esmeralda
* IMV Nevada	Nye
Vanderbilt Minerals Co.	Esmeralda, Nye, Pershing
Oregon	
* Central Oregon Bentonite Co.	Crook
Evergreen Bentonite Inc.	Crook
* Teague Mineral Products Co.	Malheur
Texas	
Milwhite Co. Inc.	Fayette
Southern Clay Products Inc.	Gonzales
Utah	
* Redmond Clay and Salt Co. Inc.	Sanpete
* Western Clay Co.	Sevier
Wyoming	
* American Colloid Co.	Big Horn, Crook, Weston
* Bentonite Performance Minerals	Big Horn, Crook
* Black Hills Bentonite	Johnson, Natrona, Washakie
* M-I Drilling Fluids Inc.	Big Horn
* Wyo-Ben Inc.	Big Horn

*Asterisk indicates producer of swelling bentonite.

Fire Clay Producers, by State¹

State and Company	County
Alabama	
Alabama Refractory Specialties Inc.	Shelby
Southeast Refractories	Calhoun
Arkansas	
National Refractories and Minerals Corp.	Pulaski
California	
Pacific Holdings Clay Products Co.	Riverside
Kentucky	
Dal Tile Corp.	Hancock
Missouri	
Christy Minerals	Audrain, Montgomery
RHI AG (A.P. Green Industries Inc.)	Audrain, Callaway, Franklin, Gasconade, Maries, Montgomery, Phelps, Warren
RHI AG (North American Refractories Co.)	Audrain
Wellsville Firebrick Co.	Montgomery
New Mexico	
Mathis & Mathis	Luna
Ohio	
Belville Mining Co. Inc.	Lawrence
Blue Jay Enterprises of Tuscarawas	Tuscarawas
Cedar Heights Clay Co.	Jackson
Kimble Coal Co.	Tuscarawas
Waterloo Coal Co. Inc.	Jackson
Washington	
RHI AG (North American Refractories Co.)	King, Stevens

¹Company names in parentheses are previous owners of the mining operations.

Fuller's Earth Producers, by State and Type

State and Company	County
California	
Ralston Purina Co. (porcelanite)	Kern
Clorox Co. (porcelanite)	Kern
Florida	
* Engelhard Corp.	Gadsden
Mid-Florida Mining Co.	Marion
* Milwhite Inc.	Gadsden
Georgia	
* Engelhard Corp.	Decatur, Thomas
Clorox Co.	Jefferson
Georgia-Tennessee Mining and Chemical Co.	Jefferson
Medusa Aggregates Co.	Houston
* Milwhite Inc.	Decatur
* Oil Dri Corp.	Thomas
* Sud-Chemie AG (Waverly Minerals Products Co.)	Thomas
Illinois	
Oil Dri Corp.	Pulaski
Ralston Purina Co.	Pulaski
Kansas	
Micro-lite Inc. (saprolite)	Wilson
Mississippi	
Applied Industrial Materials Corp.	Tippah
Blue Mountain Product Co.	Tippah
Oil Dri Production Co.	Tippah
Missouri	
Ralston Purina Co.	Stoddard
Nevada	
Eagle-Picher Industries Inc. (clay/diatomaceous earth)	Lyon
IMV Nevada (sepiolite)	Nye
Moltan Co. (clay/diatomaceous earth)	Churchill
Oregon	
Oil Dri Production Co. (diatomaceous earth)	Lake
Tennessee	
Moltan Minerals	Hardeman
Texas	
Balcones Minerals Corp.	Fayette
Virginia	
Bennett Mineral Co.	King and Queen
Ralston Purina Co.	King William

*Asterisk indicates producer of attapulgite.

Kaolin Producers, by State¹

State and Company	County
Alabama	
C-E Minerals Inc.	Barbour
Arkansas	
RHI AG (A.P. Green Industries Inc.)	Pulaski
Geo-Specialty Chemicals Co.	Pulaski
California	
RHI AG (North American Refractories Co.)	Amador
Standard Industrial Minerals Inc.	Inyo, Mono
Florida	
The Feldspar Corp.	Putnam
Georgia	
Unimin Corp. (Albion Kaolin Co.)	Twiggs, Richmond, Wilkinson
C-E Minerals Inc.	Sumter
IMERYS (Dry Branch Kaolin Co.)	Bibb, Twiggs, Wilkinson
IMERYS (ECC Group PLC)	Glascoock, Hancock, Jefferson, McDuffie, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson
Engelhard Corp.	Baldwin, Glascoock, Jefferson, Warren, Washington, Wilkinson
J. M. Huber Corp.	Jefferson, Twiggs, Warren, Wilkinson
Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co.	Washington
M & M Clay Co.	Wilkinson
Medusa Corp.	Houston
Sam Hall and Sons	Twiggs
Thiele Kaolin Co.	Warren, Washington
Wilkinson Kaolin Associates Ltd.	Twiggs, Wilkinson
Nevada	
Centex Corp.	Washoe
North Carolina	
Oglebay Norton Specialty Minerals Inc.	Cleveland
South Carolina	
Dixie Clay Co.	Aiken
W.R. Grace and Co.	Aiken
Kentucky-Tennessee Clay Co.	Aiken
Palmetto Brick Co.	Kershaw
Richtex Corp.	Lexington, Richland
Southeastern Clay Co.	Aiken
Tennessee	
Unimin Corp. (United Clays Inc.)	Carroll
Texas	
U.S. Silica Co.	Limestone

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