

CONSTITUTION AND PROPERTIES OF SRI LANKA BALL CLAYS

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Ball Clay extensively used in the ceramic industry mainly for the purposes of imparting plasticity to body mixtures. The best known deposit of Ball Clay occurs in Dediya-wela in the Kalutara District. Recent investigations have revealed the presence of three types of Ball Clays (Yellow, Blue, and Black) at Dediya-wela. Their constitution and properties are discussed and it is observed that although the chemical properties seem to be similar except for the content of carbon, their physical properties vary considerably.

The Chemical, Mineralogical, Thermal expansion behaviour, particle size distribution, fired properties and strengths have been determined and it is shown that although there is a variation in properties of samples tested, all three varieties are capable of being used in industry provided that their characteristics are taken into consideration in a particular manufacturing process.

An account is given of the use of Sri Lanka Ball Clay in the present ceramic industry and the possibilities of using black Ball Clays hitherto not used in industry is discussed.