

CERAMICS

These materials are made from a mixture of sand and clay and are extremely porous unless a glaze or seal is applied to the outer surface during or after manufacture. They are used both internally and externally as construction material as well as decorative finishes. They are also used as sanitary fittings, tableware and kitchenware. The most frequently found materials are: -

- a) Earthenware
- b) Stoneware
- c) Vitreous china
- d) Porcelain
- e) Bone china
- f) Brick
- g) Marble
- h) Concrete / cement
- i) Terrazzo
- j) Granolithic

Concrete and granolithic are mainly used as floor surfaces.

EARTHENWARE – This is a thick, heavy and very porous material, which is usually glazed for use. It chips easily and must be cleaned, stored & handled with care. It is cheap to produce. Used majorly for mugs, jugs, bowls, vases, goblets, ashtrays, etc.

STONEWARE – This is similar to earthenware but has more stone content. It is fired at very high temperature giving a stronger material, which is impervious, and so needs no glazing. Some stoneware is oven and flameproof.

VITEROUS CHINA – This is also fired at a very high temp than earthenware. It contains more flint, which makes it stronger but also very heavy. Some types of vitreous china have a high chip resistance and are used throughout hotels and institutions for crockery and sanitary ware.

PORCELAIN – This is a translucent earthenware containing china clay, stone and feldspar. It is very strong but also expensive and therefore rarely found in institutions. Mainly used for cups and saucers.

BONE CHINA – It is similar to porcelain but contains bone ash and less feldspar. It is fired at very high temperature, making it thin, strong and impervious. Mainly used for crockery.

CLEANING AND STORING

Great care should be taken in the cleaning and storage of these fine ceramic items to avoid chipping, cracking, scratching. Extreme temperatures should be avoided and they should be cleaned or soaked immediately after use to avoid harsh abrasives. A hot neutral synthetic detergent solution should be used followed by rinsing and drying, preferably in a dish washing machine where rinse aids can be used and drying occurs

naturally. Stains, particularly those made by tea and coffee can be removed by rubbing a damp cloth and bicarbonate of soda.



IHM NOTES