

Raw Materials and their Processing

Clay is formed of finely ground particles of rocks and minerals, weathered or decomposed since ages. All clays are derived from rocks and it is of utmost importance to know about the history of clay.

There are several theories attributed to the origin of Earth. But the most famous nebular theory is the Nebulus Hypothesis which states that originally there were no stars or planets in this universe except the Sun. Due to some friction within itself a part from the hot gaseous sun came out and started revolving round on its own orbit as well as around the sun. It is still continuing to do the same. Due to this circular action, the part which came out of the sun not only got cooled slowly, but also became spherical in shape, and this planet is called 'Earth' on which we all live. **Earth went on cooling** due to the cold atmosphere around this new planet and as a result of this the gaseous surface partially condensed and lava became in liquid state. **The lava further cooled and solidified into solid substance called "rock"**. When the outer crust of the earth went on cooling the vapour condensed into water and this water accumulated in huge pits caused due to the shrinkage of the outer crust. **These huge pits accumulated with water** became the **sea and ocean**. Though the origin of earth is estimated to be about 2000 million years, yet the plant life, as a first living thing, came into existence after many million years, when a congenial atmosphere was created on earth. Even to this day, from the core of the earth a greater part of it, it is still hot with molten lava. It is said that the part of the earth mostly has iron and nickel.

Kinds of Rocks and their Formation:

Beneath the mantle of the loose surface soil are solid rocks which can be classified into three groups:

- (1) Igneous Rocks
- (2) Sedimentary Rocks
- (3) Metamorphic Rocks

Igneous Rocks: Igneous rocks are the

